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DAKIN BROS. OF CHINA, LIMITED,
DISPENSING CHEMISTS, &c.

CHEMISTS AND AERATED WATER
MANUFACTURERS.

**DAKIN'S
SELTZER WATER,**
CONTAINS THE TRUE SALTZ SALTS.
Makes a more palatable drink with spirits
than Soda Water.

NO LOWERING TENDENCY.
IN LARGEST SIZE BOTTLES,
CENTS 50 PER DOZEN.

(Telephone No. 60.)
Nos. 22 & 24, QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL.
Hongkong, 13th April, 1891. [37]

WINE AND SPIRITS.
A. S. WATSON & CO., LD.
ESTABLISHED A.D. 1841.

MANUFACTURERS OF AERATED
WATERS.
Our New Factory has been recently refitted
with automatic Steam Machinery of the
latest and most approved kind, and
we are well able to compete in
quality with the best
English Makers.
The purest ingredients only are used, and the
utmost care and cleanliness are exercised
in the manufacture throughout.

**LARGE BOMBAY
"SODAS"**
We continue to supply large bottles as
heretofore, free of Extra Charge, to those of
our Customers who prefer to have them to the
ordinary size.

COAST PORT ORDERS,
whenever practicable, are despatched by first
steamer leaving after receipt of order.
FOR COAST PORTS, Waters are packed and
placed on board ship at Hongkong prices, and
the full amount allowed for Packages and Emplies
when received in good order.
Counterfeit Order Books supplied on applica-
tion.

Our Registered Telegraphic Address is
"DISPENSARY, HONGKONG,"
And all signed orders addressed thus
will receive prompt attention.

The following is a List of Waters always
kept ready in Stock:
PURE AERATED WATERS
SODA WATER
LEMONADE
POTASH WATER
SELTZER WATER

LITHIA WATER
SARSAPARILLA WATER
TONIC WATER
GINGER ALE
GINGERADE.

No Credit given for bottles that look dirty,
or greasy, or that appear to have been used
for any other purpose than that of Containing
Aerated Water, as such bottles are never used
again by us.

A. S. WATSON & CO., LIMITED,
Hongkong, China, and Manila. [5]

MARRIAGE.
At Shanghai, on the 25th April, at the British
Consulate-General, and afterwards at the Union
Church, by Rev. T. R. Stevenson, THOMAS
EDWIN TREUMAN to AMY ELIZA SAYLE.
DEATH.

At Hankow, on the 21st April, WILLIAM
FORBES second son of late Dr. Hugh Sharp, of
Cullen, Banffshire, Scotland; aged 45 years.

The Hongkong Telegraph.
HONGKONG, THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 1891.

**THE SUNDAY LABOUR AND
GAMBLING QUESTIONS.**

The meeting of the Legislative Council this
forenoon was marked by the con-
sideration of measures which, all being well,
will deal severe blows at two important,
if dissimilar, vested interests—the ship-
owners' and the gambling-house keepers'.

The former class, through their representa-
tives in the Chamber of Commerce, have
long and successfully opposed the claims
of their European employers to have Sunday
rest when in port here, and after the dis-
couraging and Jesuitical attitude adopted
by Mr. F. FLEMING, then administering
the Government, when approached by a
deputation of officers on the subject last
November, it was scarcely to be expected
that such a complete concession could have
been granted as is proposed in the Bill
which was to-day read a first time. By
this "Sunday Cargo-working Ordinance"
practically the whole of the Harbor is
controlled, and, except in cases where the
exceptional circumstances make it worth
while paying \$150 for the privilege, the clank
of the steam-wheel will be heard no more on
board vessels within our waters on Sundays,
on pain of a fine not exceeding \$1,000. We
have so long and consistently advocated
the adoption of such a measure that we
shall be pardoned for a little plain speak-
ing to both officers and owners. At the
conference between the deputation from the
Mercantile Marine Officers' Association
and the Chamber of Commerce in October
last, and at again the interview with
the Acting Governor the following month,

there was a good deal too much twaddle
about "moral slavery," yearning for liberty
to attend Divine service, and so on. The
great want was for a day to recreate, for
officers and men to lie back and forget
about bills of lading, for once, and to
associate with their friends in the way
other men do. On the other hand the
Chamber of Commerce people, invested
as they were (the phrase is Captain
Ashton's) with heathenish surroundings,
talked the most arrant rubbish imaginable
when they pretended that to lay the ships
up on Sunday would knock the bottom
out of all local trade, and reduce
the Colony to ruin, not to speak
of the cheek of the officers in ever thinking
of such a thing. It was a case of British
interests, and nothing better. Sir G. W.
Dix Vaux has not lost his grip of things
so entirely as to ignore this, and he has
solved the question to-day in a crisp little
Ordinance that the Chamber of Commerce
ought to have framed and hung up in their
consulting room at the City Hall.

With respect to the latest crusade against
the gambling-house keepers there is not
much to be said that is new, save and except
as to the brief expression of opinion from
his Excellency in respect to the Totalisator.
Governor Dix Vaux is not very consistent
in some things—he has not been in respect
to this gambling question—but he got right
home when he declared that the Totalisator
could not be countenanced at any future
race-meetings, any more—in fact less than
the establishment of a *potiss* shanty in the
paddock. He said what we have repeatedly
asserted in these columns, and he spoke
just about as feelingly. Whilst expunging
a clause which would have practically
justified a raid on any club or private
house where the limit on a quiet game
was anything over a dollar, he showed an
unmistakable determination to make no
race distinctions in suppressing this all-
pervading vice of gambling, and we
rather fancy that one or two ears at that
same Council-board must have tingled a
trifle when his Excellency was painfully
expressing his rather pronounced senti-
ments on the subject. There will be a
valuable Totalisator, "whose owner is
giving up business," for sale when this Bill
becomes law, and the proceedings at the
next meeting of that sadly degenerate body
which calls itself the Hongkong Jockey
Club, and arrogates to itself more power
than a Council of Ten, will be very
interesting. It is perhaps unnecessary to
add that no new bill was required to
exterminate the totalisator; the existing
law is quite sufficient to meet all require-
ments, but on our annual gala days the
police have discreetly been blind to all
sorts of gambling, in which Chinese and
foreigners were equally implicated, and
we are not aware that any very serious
consequences have ever resulted from this
special indulgence. It is possible to have
too much repressive legislation, and we
are rather inclined to the opinion that the
limit has been greatly exceeded in this
new Hongkong Gambling Ordinance.

TELEGRAMS.
PORTUGUESE OUTRAGES IN AFRICA.
LONDON, April 28th.

The Consul at Delagoa cables that Messrs.
Colquhoun Pawley and the officers of the
Chartered British African Company were brutally
assaulted by Portuguese. British lives unsafe.

LOCAL AND GENERAL.
THE British cruisers *Mercury*, *Leander*, and
Seymour sailed hence for Amoy this morning.

MESSRS. Adamson, Bell & Co., agents for the
Canadian-Pacific Line, inform us that the steamer
Bellevue left Shanghai for this port yesterday at
3 p.m., and is due to-morrow.

THE *Rockwell Echo* says that heavy rain has
caused interruption to the picking of the new
tea. The leaf is said to be nice and succulent
and to show every prospect of a fine first crop.

A FAIRLY large audience patronised the Assault-
at-Hankow given by the Lorne Athletic Club at the
City Hall last evening. The various items
of the programme were cleverly performed and
merited the constant plaudits given to the
performers.

ACCORDING to a native paper the tea season at
Hankow will open shortly. It is predicted that
this year's crop will be of an exceptionally fine
quality, as the weather has been most favourable
all along. The picking of the leaf at Ningchow
this year has been earlier than usual. The
market will be ready for business either at the
end of this Chinese month or the beginning
of the next.

ANOTHER ear-ripping case occurred yester-
day afternoon. A widow, whilst passing the shop
of Messrs. Gaupp & Co., was attacked from behind
and had her ornaments stolen. She turned
round quickly and saw the defendant caught by
P.C. Hanson. The youth denied the charge, but
Mr. Wise sent him to goal for six months' imprisonment and ordered him to receive two
whippings of twelve strokes each during the
time, remarking that cases of snatching were
becoming too common and must be put down.

THE *Empress of India's* maiden trip across the
North Pacific from Yokohama to Vancouver is
the fastest thing in the way of steaming on the
bosom of the Pacific Ocean that has yet been
recorded. She left Yokohama at 4 p.m. on the
17th instant, with a full cargo and upwards of
150 first-class passengers, and arrived at
Vancouver during the forenoon of the 28th idem,
i.e. in 10 days and a few hours. The next best
record is the voyage of the Pacific Mail Com-
pany's "Prince of Wales" which did the same
trip—when running a passenger service—on the
C.P. boats—in 12 days 14 hours, in
August last.

DURING a religious *Asita* at Laoag, in the North
Ilocos province of the Philippines, on the 21st
inst., a fire broke out in a temporary theatre in
which were some eight hundred natives. Nearly
fifty of them—mostly children—were either
crushed, suffocated, or burnt to death.

LAST night the Electric Light Company added
fourteen new lights to their street illuminations,
namely, four at the Cricket Ground, four at
Wanchai Market, four in the vicinity of Govern-
ment House, and two on the Praya—in addition
to their other lights in those districts. A trial
of the new lights was made during the afternoon
and when, at 6.30 p.m., the electric current was
sent through the Company's circuits the new
lamps shed a steady brilliant light throughout
the entire night. We hear that the company
are about to get some of the local coast steam-
ship companies' vessels with the new illuminant,
as also some of the hotels and merchants' bongs.

It is proposed to extend the Kaping Railway to
Shan-hai-kwan by the route of Koo-ye and
Ling-si; from Shan-hai-kwan it will be still
extended to Shangkang, from hence onward to
Kihing. During the last moon, Taotai Li Shan
Ching sent deputies from Tung-shan to take the
survey. All properties along the route,
which the new railroad is to take, will be bought
at reasonable prices from their present owners.
Notices to that effect have already been issued
by the Railroad Company in conjunction with
the local authorities. The Taotai Li left in
person for an inspection of the route on the 9th
of this month. More developments, says the
native papers, are expected in the coming
Chinese 4th moon.

MEETING OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Legislative Council was
held this morning. There were present:
H. E. the Governor, Sir G. W. de Vaux;
Mr. W. M. Deane, C.M.G. (Acting Colonial
Secretary); Mr. W. Goodman (Attorney-General);
Mr. N. G. Mitchell-Innes (Colonial Treasurer);
Mr. J. H. Stewart-Lockhart (Registrar-General);
Mr. S. Brown (Surveyor-General); Messrs. P.
Ryrie, T. H. Whitehead, Ho Kai, and J. J.
Kerwick, (unofficial members), and Mr. A. M.
Thomson, Clerk of Councils.

THE minutes of the last meeting were read
and confirmed.

THE REPLY TO MR. WHITEHEAD.
His Excellency—I had prepared for this
Council a speech on the condition and prospects
of the colony, but as the very urgent representa-
tions of the medical authorities actually com-
pelled me to the belief that I was not in a
position to bear the strain of delivering it I sent
it yesterday to the Press, and a copy of it is laid
on the table.

REPORTS, &c.
The Acting Colonial Secretary laid on the
table a report on the operations of the Public
Works for 1890; a despatch from the Secretary of
State with reference to the Military Contribution
in reply to the Memorial on behalf of the Council
sent in December last; the Harbour Master's
report for 1890; the returns of superior and
subordinate Courts for 1890; and the returns of
births and deaths in the Colony for the same
year.

MIGHT HAVE BEEN DISRESPECTFUL.
Mr. Ryrie, pursuant to notice, asked his
Excellency "if when he asked me at the meeting
of Council on 25th March last if the protest I
then laid on the table, was a respectful protest,
he meant to imply that I was likely to present,
or the unofficial members to concur in, a protest
that was not perfectly respectful?"

His Excellency—One of the rules of this
Council is that any protest must be couched in
respectful terms; it was therefore impossible for
me to accept it until I knew that it was in
respectful terms, not that I meant to imply by
any means that it was likely to be in any but
respectful terms, but I think I had every reason
to believe from the tone of the members' language
at the time that he did not think so either.

THE MILITARY CONTRIBUTION.
Mr. Ryrie—My next question is—Will the
honourable the Colonial Treasurer state if the
arrangements of the Military Contribution for the year
1890, payment of which was authorized by this
Council on the 19th March last, has been paid,
and if paid, on what date, or dates, it or any
portion of it, was paid, and if so, upon what
authority.

His Excellency—I will answer the question
myself. The equivalent to £20,000 was paid on
my warrant into the military chest. On the 24th
February a telegram was received from the
Secretary of State requesting immediate payment
of the money; he had then had before him the
reasons against the vote of this money that were
urged the passing of the Estimates for 1890 on;
this telegram therefore evidently conveyed the
deliberate decision of her Majesty's Govern-
ment after giving the matter full considera-
tion. After myself giving the matter my best
attention by the light thrown on it in the
Secretary of State's despatches and elsewhere,
and after arriving at the conclusion—which every
day tends to strengthen—that the payment
was a right one, however unfortunate the
circumstances under which the demand was
made, it would, under ordinary circumstances,
have been my duty to at once summon a meeting
of Council for the purpose of passing it, but for
reasons which are well-known I was not then
in a condition to hold a meeting of Council at
all, and, feeling that I ought not to leave to
others the invidious task, I ordered its immediate
payment. I did so entirely on my own
responsibility.

A CATCHING.
Mr. Whitehead, pursuant to notice, put the
following questions—

1. Will the Government lay on the table a
report on the present state of the Tyam Reser-
voir and state—
(a) the quantity of water in the Reservoir on
1st August last;
(b) the quantity delivered daily through the
tunnel;
(c) the estimated flow into the Reservoir
between 1st August last and now;
(d) the quantity now left in the Reservoir;
(e) the cause of the difference, if any, between
the quantity passed out of the Reservoir as
shown by its contents then and now, includ-
ing estimated flow into it, and the
quantity delivered through the tunnel.

2. Is there a leak in the Tyam Reservoir;
and if so what is the nature of the leak, and if
there is leakage, what is the estimated cost
of making the Reservoir watertight?

3. Presuming that the Reservoir was full what
is the estimated quantity of water which would
be lost per diem by the leakage if there be any.

4. Will the Government lay on the table a
complete statement of the cost to date
of the Tyam Reservoir and works connected
therewith, including the Service Reservoir;
also a statement of the cost of the works to date
for the distribution of the Tyam Water, and the
estimated further sum required to complete the
distribution works.

5. Will the Government state the original
estimated cost of the Tyam Reservoir and
works connected therewith including the Service
Reservoir, and the original estimated cost of the
distribution of the Tyam Water.

6. Does the Government Notification No. 139
of 28th March last refer to Government of Leases
granted before the year 1885 or to branches of

agreements for Leases issued subsequent to that
date.

7. Will the Honourable the Colonial Treasurer
lay on the table a statement of—

(1) The particulars of the Expenditure under
the head of Miscellaneous Services in the
Statement of Receipts and Payments for
1890.

(2) The assessed taxes refunded for void or
empty houses in the years 1888, 1889, and
1890; and

(3) The assessed taxes for first quarter of 1889,
of 1890, and of 1891, and the taxes refunded
for void or empty houses in each of these
quarters.

8. Will the Honourable the Colonial Treasurer
give the Council some information regarding the
various items aggregating Millions of Dollars
under the head of Receipts and Payments in the
Statement dated 6th inst. and laid before the
Council on 10th idem; and further—

An explanation as to the decrease in Expendi-
ture against the name of the Post Master General
as appears in said Statement under the heads of
Establishments and Services exclusive of
Establishments.

9. If the full Military Contribution of £40,000
for 1890 had been paid on or before 31st Decem-
ber last would there not have been a deficiency
in revenue as compared with actual Expenditure
in 1890, and if so, how much would have been
the deficiency.

10. Will the Government lay upon the table
the papers and correspondence relating to the
closing of the thoroughfare leading from Arsenal
Street Eastward at the Praya, now blasted
to carriage traffic since November last to the
great inconvenience of the public, and state
when there is any probability of the road being
again opened to traffic.

11. Has the attention of the Government been
called to the leading article in the *Daily Press*
of the 17th March and *China Mail* of the 20th
last, referring to the unsatisfactory state of
Queen's Road Central, and will the Honourable
the Surveyor General state what steps are being
taken to put it in proper order.

12. Have the Government issued any instructions
recently for the more stringent enforcement
of the Opium Ordinance 1887 and for the more
frequent examination of Opium Godowns.

If such instructions have been issued has it
been found on the application of a complaint of the
Chinese Government or of the Officers of that
Government.

13. With reference to His Excellency The
Governor's statement in Council on 18th Decem-
ber, 1889, viz: "I was given to understand last
year that, in consideration of our having under-
taken the work of the Gap Rock Light, the
Imperial Chinese Maritime Customs would
undertake the Lighthouse on Waiyan," will
the Government state whether the Chinese Gov-
ernment have commenced the erection of the
Lighthouse on Waiyan, and if not when opera-
tions are likely to be commenced.

The Acting Colonial Secretary in reply to
those questions calling for reports laid them on
the table. With regard to the question as to
closing the thoroughfare at Arsenal Street, he
continued, I am directed to state that the road
will probably be open in about a month, but his
Excellency is not in a position to lay on the table
further details, as it is possible that legal pro-
ceedings may eventually arise. The delay
caused by the necessity of communicating
with the executors of a deceased person who
reside in England. In answer to question 11 it
has been decided, with Sir John Cooke's approval,
to substitute concrete blocks for granite footings,
the object being to add to the stability of the
work and accelerate its completion. In answer
to the next question, there is no reason to believe
that the estimate will be exceeded. With respect
to the inquiry as to the Tyam dam, his
Excellency informed the Council that there is a
percolation of the water through the dam, but
not more than might be expected from a dam of
its height. It is decreasing yearly through the
deposits left by the water, and will probably be
stopped in a short time without involving any
expenditure of money. As regards the
quantity of water lost by leakage his
Excellency is informed that none is so lost, being
conveyed by the outside channels directly to the
tunnel. With respect to the enquiry as to the
cost of the Tyam Reservoir, &c., his Excellency
is informed that the estimated cost of the
reservoir and works, not including mains, was
£300,000, and the original estimated cost of the
works of distribution £200,000. With regard to
the question concerning the Notification as
to defaulting purchasers of Crown lands, I am
instructed by his Excellency to state that the
Notification refers to people buying land and not
fulfilling the terms of their leases. Each case
will be dealt with on its merits, irrespective of
the date of purchase. With regard to question 8
the answer is a very long one, and I think it
is better to lay it on the table—it is a mass of
figures.

His Excellency—I think it will serve the
whole purpose if I lay it on the table and
printed, unless there is any objection.

Mr. Whitehead—None.

The Acting Colonial Secretary—With reference
to the question re the Military Contribution
I have to inform the hon. member that if the
full contribution of £40,000 for 1890 had been
paid before the 31st December there would have
been a deficiency in revenue to the amount of
the actual expenditure in 1890, but the actual
expenditure in 1890 includes the cost of extra-
ordinary public works that would have been set
off against accumulative advances on premia on
land sales. Putting this on one side there would
have been no deficiency in revenue. As to the
inquiry respecting the state of the roads, the
Surveyor-General states that he has inspected
the roads in the Queen's Road, and found it in good
condition considering the operations of the
Water and Drainage department. As soon as the
sewers and water mains are completed the road
will be re-laid. If any member will kindly point
out any spot to the defects of which reference
has been made the Surveyor-General will do his
best to have them remedied. With reference
to the question on the Opium Ordinance the
Superintendent of the Imports and Exports was
instructed last year that it was part of his duty
to make a full statement of the revenue of the
Opium stores. The reply to the rest of the
question is in the negative. As regards the
query as to Waiyan Light I have to state that
in September last the Acting Colonial Secretary
was directed to write to the Commissioner of
the Chinese Imperial Maritime Customs, and on
the 10th October received a reply stating that by
order of the Inspector-General the Engineer-in-
chief Coast Inspector had visited Waiyan with
a view to preparing plans and specifications for
the erection of a lighthouse on that spot.

THE SUNDAY LABOUR QUESTION SETTLED.
The Attorney-General—I have to ask leave
to introduce a Bill entitled "An Ordinance to
restrict the loading and unloading of cargo
on Sunday in certain waters of the colony"
for its first reading. I am sorry that owing
to the pressure of other business I have not
had the advantage of having this measure gone
through the Council, and by his Excel-
lency's leave I propose to read it for its first
reading, and it is possible that there will be some
modifications necessary. However, it will be
published in the *Gazette*, as usual, after its first
reading, which I move.

The Acting Colonial Secretary seconded.
His Excellency—I may just say, without going
very much into the subject, that the ventilation
which this subject has received during the
last two years has led me to the con-
clusion that a measure restricting the loading

and unloading of cargo on Sunday will
have no appreciable effect on the trade of the
port. Consequently I have decided, before I
leave, to remedy the injustice to a deserving
class of men. I trust that I shall be able to go
through the draft so that it can be published in
the *Gazette* on Saturday.

THE GAMBLING BILL.
The Council went into Committee on this Bill.

His Excellency—I wish to make quite clear
my position in this matter. You are all aware
that my faith in any Ordinance of this kind is
not great; but not only the Secretary of State
but I believe a very considerable majority in
a very large portion of public feeling in the Colony
is in favour of such an Ordinance. I am at
least certain that it will be—I assume that it is—
the only law short of licensing gambling houses,
which I believe to be really the best way of
restricting gambling, and the only law that I can
conceive that has the least prospect of doing any
good. It is a stringent law, but stringency is
not to prevent it becoming a mere sham.

While passing a law of this kind for the restric-
tion of gambling among Chinese it would be an
opinion be in the highest degree unjust if we
were to permit such proceedings as totalisators
at races. That in my opinion has all the objec-
tions of the licensing of gambling houses without
the advantage a licensed gambling house would
have in restricting a very large amount of
gambling to a narrow space and certain hours.

But the totalisator is, I consider, very much
more injurious than ordinary betting. Ordinary
betting of course cannot be suppressed at all.
Impossibility, but the totalisator is infinitely
worse than betting, on account of its extreme
ease. In the case of betting people often have
a difficulty because they cannot get people to
bet with them, and moreover when they do,
sometimes they do not get paid. The totalisator,
however, on account of its extreme ease, is
decidedly worse, or at least decidedly as bad,
as any other form of gambling.

I have known from personal experience that it caused
people to gamble on it who would not think of it
otherwise. And I think it would be gross
injustice to have to lay this Council open to the
charge of very gross partiality, to stop Chinese
gambling and not to stop that; consequently I
have specially included a clause so that when
people advocate putting down gambling they
may know what it means themselves.

The Bill was then considered in Committee.
Section 4, which defined as a common
gambling house "any place in which excessive
stakes are ordinarily played for" was supported
by his Excellency, who said it would be impos-
sible to include such a wide definition.

Some discussion ensued on the manner of
introducing amendments.

The Attorney-General said the word "exces-
sive" was introduced in consequence of a judg-
ment of Mr. Justice Field which dealt with that
very point—he said that Sir Charles Russell, in
arguing a case before him, said that nobody could
tell what "excessive" was. The judgment (read
out) said that the judge to decide what was a large
sum to one man might be very small to another. The
Attorney-General thought it was a matter of
judgment, and might be decided here similarly
by the magistrate, and if the parties were not
satisfied it could then go before the Supreme
Court, and so they could ascertain what
"excessive" was. That would no doubt be
a matter of some difficulty to decide; but he
thought it only right that it was not introduced
without some consideration.

His Excellency—I am sure no member thought
that it was introduced without consideration, but
on the other hand I am of opinion that while the
word *Ordinance* is carefully drafted, in some
respects I see objections. One is to the ex-
cessive restriction of freedom. As far as I can read
the law, anybody in a private house who chooses
to play high frequently might be subject to a
visit from the police. I confess that I am not
without a certain sympathy with the celebrated
proverbial saying that he preferred an English
free to an English sober. I am not without an
analogous feeling with regard to gambling. But
though restrictions are necessary to a certain
extent I think that including private houses is
pushing the matter too far, not to mention the
extraordinary difficulties it would put upon the
magistrates and judges to say what "excessive"
is. Probably they would take extremely different
views on the subject, and an irregular reading
of the law is likely to be introduced.

His Excellency—Further unimportant discussion the
Bill passed through Committee. On the Council
resuming.

Mr. Ryrie said—Some time ago I put a ques-
tion about the Merchant Shipping Ordinance.
It was said at the time that the Ordinance would
be amended shortly. Something like a year has
now elapsed, and nothing has yet been done. I
would like to ask when the new Merchant
Shipping Ordinance will be introduced.

This concluded the business before the Council,
which adjourned *afine die*.

OUR SHIPPING STATISTICS.
The Harbour Master's report for 1890 was
presented to the Legislative Council at the
meeting to-day. In it he states:—

The Shipping Returns show a marked advance-
ment in the trade of the Colony. The total
tonnage of Arrivals and Sailings amounting to
1,131 million tons, the highest figures yet reached,
and over a million more than in the previous
year. There were 32,132 arrivals, with a
tonnage of 6,854,588 tons, and 31,855 departures
of 6,823,705 tons, making a grand total of 6,987
vessels, and 13,678,293 tons.

The following statement shows how this
amount of shipping is apportioned:—

	1890.	1889.	1888.	1887.
British	1,131,000	1,000,000	900,000	800,000
Foreign	1,050,000	950,000	850,000	750,000
Total	2,181,000	1,950,000	1,750,000	1,550,000

Compared with 1889, there has been a general
increase of British tonnage amounting to 440,000
tons, and an increase of foreign tonnage of
367,000 tons. A comparison also with the
average of the last three years shows an increase
in 1890 of 136 British ships representing 397,499
tons, and of vessels under foreign flags an
increase of 307 ships and 224,843 tons.

The general trade as represented by the
amount of shipping from and to the various
countries does not show on the whole much
alteration, though there is a general increase in
British bottoms, most marked with regard to
Cochin-China, Japan, the Philippines and Siam.
In the case of foreign vessels, the increase is
still greater with Cochin-China and Siam. There
is also a considerable revival of the junk trade.

With Great Britain and the Continent of
Europe, the amount of trade does not differ
materially from 1889, being indeed nearly
stationary. There is a slight increase in arrivals
under the British flag and a decrease under
foreign flags.

As shown in the foregoing tables, the junk
trade for 1890 amounted to 3,004,553 tons being
an increase over the previous year of 1,968 tons
and 203,851 tons. The trade with Macao shows a
falling off from 1889, but with the exception that
the foreign junk trade has increased. The chief
increase in junks, however, is in the local trade

(by which is to be understood the trade between
places within the waters of the colony) in which
Returns show that it amounted to 850 vessels
and 49,103 tons. Compared also with the
average of the past three years, the junk trade of
1890 still shows an increase of 11,758 tons, in
the foreign trade and 44,045 tons in the local
trade.

The subject of the interference of Chinese
revenue cruisers with the junk trade of the colony
was brought somewhat prominently forward
during the past year, and more than one report
was made from the out-stations of visits paid by
these cruisers or their boats to the junk anchor-
ages on the south side of the Island; also of
junks having been stopped and boarded. In
one case from the evidence of the junk people
and the officer

Commercial.

LATEST QUOTATIONS.
 Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, ex New Issue, 106 per cent. premium, sellers.
 Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, cum New Issue, 228 per cent. premium, sellers.
 Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, New Issue, 104 per cent. premium, sellers.
 Union Insurance Society of Canton—\$95 per share, buyers.
 China Traders' Insurance Company—\$63 per share, buyers.
 North China Insurance—Tls. 275 per share, buyers.
 Canton Insurance Company, Limited—\$115 per share, sellers.
 Yangtze Insurance Association—Tls. 70 per share, nominal.
 On Tai Insurance Company, Limited—Tls. 150 per share, sellers.
 Hongkong Fire Insurance Company—\$315 per share, sellers.
 China Fire Insurance Company—\$82 per share, sellers.
 Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Company—\$100 per cent. premium, buyers.
 Hongkong, Canton, and Macao Steamboat Co.—\$31 per share, sellers.
 China and Manila Steam Ship Company—120 per share, sellers.
 Hongkong Gas Company—\$131 per share, sellers.
 Hongkong Hotel Company—\$120 per share, buyers.
 Hongkong Hotel Co. S's Six per cent. Debentures—\$50.
 Indo-China Steam Navigation Company, Limited—40 per cent. discount, sellers.
 Douglas Steamship Company—\$48 per share, sellers.
 China Sugar Refining Company, Limited—\$198 per share, sellers.
 Luzon Sugar Refining Company, Limited—\$92 per share, sellers.
 Hongkong Ice Company—\$90 per share, buyers.
 Hongkong and China Bakery Company, Limited—\$75 per share.
 Hongkong Dairy Farm Co., Limited—\$7 per share, sellers.
 A. S. Watson & Co., Limited—\$211 per share, buyers.
 Chinese Imperial Loan of 1884 B—2 per cent. premium, sellers.
 Chinese Imperial Loan of 1884 C—5 per cent. premium, buyers.
 Chinese Imperial Loan of 1886 E—14 per cent. premium.
 Hongkong Rope Manufacturing Company, Limited—\$122 per share, ex. div., sales and buyers.
 The Hongkong Steam Laundry Co., Limited—\$25 per share, nominal.
 Punjion and Sangle Doo Samantan Mining Co.—\$2 per share, sellers.
 The Rango Gold Mining Co., Limited—80 cents per share, buyers.
 Inauris Mining Co., Limited—\$12 per share, buyers.
 The Balmoral Gold Mining Co., Limited—\$7 per share, sellers.
 Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company—\$79 per share, buyers.
 Tongkin Coal Mining Co.—\$430 per share, buyers.
 The Hongkong High-Level Tramway Co., Limited—\$65 per share, buyers.
 The East Borneo Planting Co., Limited—\$10 per share, sellers.
 H. G. Brown & Co., Limited—\$48 per share, ex. div., buyers.
 The Seng Kee Planting Co., Limited—\$131 per share, buyers.
 Cruickshank & Co., Limited—\$35 per share, nominal.
 The Steam Launch Co., Limited—nominal.
 The Austin Arms Hotel and Building Company, Limited—\$15 per share, sellers.
 The China-Borneo Co., Limited—\$16 per share, sellers.
 The Hongkong Brick and Cement Co., Limited—\$12 per share, sellers.
 The Green Island Cement Co.—\$17 per share, sellers.
 The Hongkong Land Investment Co., Limited—\$7 per share, sellers.
 The Hongkong Electric Light Co., Limited—\$6 per share, buyers.
 Geo. Fenwick & Co., Limited—\$15 per share, sellers.
 The West Point Buildings Co., Limited—\$30 per share, sellers.
 The Peak Hotel and Trading Co., Limited—\$8 per share, sellers.
 The Labuk Planting Co., Limited—\$25 per share, sellers.
 The Laming Planting Co., Limited—\$7 per share, buyers.
 The Jelabu Mining and Trading Co., Limited—\$2 per share, buyers.
 The Selama Tin Mining Co., Limited—\$1 per share, sellers.
 The Shamoon Hotel Co., Limited—nominal.
 The Kowloon Land Investment Co., Limited—\$15 per share, buyers.
 The Bank of China & Japan & the Straits Ltd.—\$18 per share, sellers.
 The Bank of China & Japan & the Straits Ltd.—Founders' shares, \$180 per share, sellers.
 The Hongkong Marine, Limited—nominal.
 London and Pacific Petroleum Co., Limited—\$15, sellers.
 The National Bank of China, Ltd.—27 per cent. div., sellers.
 The National Bank of China, Ltd., Founders' shares—\$400 per share, sellers.

ON LONDON—Bank, T. T. 3/11
 Bank Bills, on demand 3/11
 Bank Bills, at 1 month's sight 3/11
 Credits at 4 months' sight 3/11
 Documentary Bills, at 4 months' sight 3/11

ON PARIS—
 Bank Bills, on demand 3/4
 Credits, at 4 months' sight 4/4
 On India, T. T. 2/11
 On Demand 2/11

ON SHANGHAI—
 Bank, T. T. 7/11
 Private, 30 days' sight 7/11

Shipping.
ARRIVALS.
 MARIE BRIG, German bark, 536, L. Hildrichs, 29th April—Singapore 26th March, Timber.
 Wileo & Co.
 DIAMANT, British steamer, 514, G. A. Taylor, 30th April—Manila 27th April, General.
 Russell & Co.
 TAIKANG, British steamer, 1,503, W. H. Hogg, 30th April—Shanghai 26th April, General.
 Jardine, Matheson & Co.
 PALOS, American gunboat, 423, Lieut.-Comdr. Joseph Mattheis, 30th April—Amoy April 28th.
 AUSTRIA, British bark, 1,105, Geo. N. Dakin, 30th April—New York 11th Nov., Kerosene Oil—Order.

DEPARTURES.
 April 29, Yuny, American schooner, to Yaf.

April 30, Mercury, British cruiser, for Amoy, &c.
 April 30, Leander, British cruiser, for Amoy, &c.
 April 30, Severn, British cruiser, for Amoy, &c.
 April 30, Ly-ee-moon, German str., for Whampoa.
 April 30, Clyde, British str., for Singapore, &c.
 April 30, Cosmopolis, German str., for Chefoo.
 April 30, Zambesi, British str., for Nagasaki, &c.
 April 30, Tongham, British str., for Swatow, &c.
 April 30, Don Juan, Spanish str., for Amoy, &c.

PASSENGERS—ARRIVALS.
 Per Taisang, str., from Shanghai—30 Chinese.
 Per Diamante, str., from Manila.—Messrs. G. Higgins, C. E. Beridano, 1 European and 53 Chinese (deck).
DEPARTED.
 Per Clyde, str., for Singapore.—Mrs. Ogley, Mrs. Holloway, Messrs. Shekell, and G. S. Shimla.
 For Penang.—Mr. J. Temp and son.
 For Colombo.—Dr. and Mrs. Heinrich May and 2 children.
 For London.—Mrs. H. Wickling, Mrs. Ryan, Revs. Glover and Morris.
 Messrs. Norman L. Ashburner, T. S. Smith, G. Bateman, and J. Doble.

REPORTS.
 The British steamship Taisang reports that she left Shanghai on the 26th instant. Had moderate north-east winds and overcast sky with rain.
 The British steamship Diamante reports that she left Manila on the 27th instant. Had moderate north-east monsoon and fine weather throughout.

Post Office.
 A MAIL WILL CLOSE.
 For Swatow, Amoy, & Taiwan.—Per Thales to-morrow, the 1st May, at 11.30 A.M.
 For Shanghai.—Per Fooking to-morrow, the 1st May, at 2.30 P.M.

SHIPPING IN HONGKONG.
STEAMERS.
 AMICITA, Norwegian steamer, 527, Joh. Irgens, 29th April—Odessa 10th March, General.
Order.
 ANCONA, British steamer, 1,888, W. D. Madie, 28th April—Yokohama 18th April, Mails and General.—P. & O. S. N. Co.
 ARRATON, APCAR, British steamer, 1,392, J. G. Spence, 23rd April—Calcutta 8th April, Penang 14th, and Singapore 17th, Opium and General.—D. Sassoon, Sons & Co.
 BENLID, British steamer, 1,481, J. H. Clark, 20th April—Salgo 25th April, General.—Gibb, Livingston & Co.
 BORMIDA, Italian steamer, 1,580, C. Gavazzo, 26th April—Singapore 20th April, General.—Canalieri & Co.
 CHELYDRA, British steamer, 1,574, G. Payne, 24th April—Salgo 20th April, Rice and Paddy.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.
 CHOWFA, British steamer, 1,057, F. W. Phillips, 27th April—Bangkok 19th April, General.—Yuen Fat Hong.
 CLARA, German steamer, 675, H. Island, 28th April—Halphong 25th April, Rice and General.—A. R. Martz.
 DELTA, French steamer, 1,177, Abbal, 29th April, Halphong, 26th April, General.—Messageries Maritimes.
 DONAR, German steamer, 1,041, B. Grundmann, 25th April—Salgo 20th April, Rice.—Wiel & Co.
 ELSE, German steamer, 747, M. Jensen, 26th April—Salgo 21st April, Rice.—Melchers & Co.
 FALKENBURG, German steamer, 689, H. Friedrich, 26th April—Salgo 22nd April, Rice and Paddy.—Melchers & Co.
 FREIX, Danish steamer, 397, C. L. Strand, 26th April—Pakhol, and Halphong 25th April, General.—Arnhold, Karberg & Co.
 GLENFRUIN, British steamer, 1,036, E. Norman, 29th April—Whampoa 29th April, General.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.
 HAIPHONG, British steamer, 1,120, Harris, 28th April—Mozi 22nd April, Coals and General.—D. Laprak & Co.
 LOIRE, French steamer, 533, 28th April—Salgo 24th April, General.—Chinese.
 NAMOA, British steamer, 863, Goddard, 29th April—Fochow 26th April, Amoy 27th, and Swatow 28th, General.—D. Laprak & Co.
 NANSHAN, British steamer, 805, J. Blackburne, 14th April—Bangkok 6th April, Rice.—Hop Hing Hong.
 NIZAM, British steamer, 1,615, Geo. L. Langhorne, R.N.R., 27th April—Bombay 9th April, and Singapore 20th, General.—P. & O. S. N. Co.
 OCEANIC, British steamer, 3,808, W. M. Smith, 27th April—San Francisco 22nd April, and Yokohama 22nd, Mails and General.—O. & O. S. N. Co.
 PARTHA, British steamer, 2,035, John Panton, R.N.R., 15th April—Salgo 11th April, General.—Adamson, Bell & Co.
 SIAM, British steamer, 991, John M. Tulloch, 27th April—Bangkok 21st April, Rice.—Chinese.
 THALES, British steamer, 819, Hunter, 28th April—Taiwanfo 23rd April, Amoy 24th, Swatow 27th, General.—D. Laprak & Co.
 THIANCA, Chinese steamer, 350, Wong Ling Sing, 11th Dec.—Halphong 27th Dec., Ballast.—Chinese.

SAILING VESSELS.
 ADOLPH OBRIQ, American bark, 1,376, F. Carlson, 5th March—New York 31st August, Kerosene Oil.—Reuter, Brockmann & Co.
 COLUMBUS, German ship, 1,428, L. Haezelton, 21st April—Singapore 20th March, Timber.—Melchers & Co.
 DON JUSTO, American bark, 708, B. Neilson, 21st April—Singapore 28th Feb., Timber. Captain.
 DOROTHEA, German bark, 620, H. F. Moeller, 25th March—Hamburg 20th Oct., General. Siemens & Co.
 DOROTHY, British bark, 310, Angus Crail, 21st April—Pitago 2nd April, Timber.—Gibb, Livingston & Co.
 HEINRICH, German bark, 915, F. H. Baasnae, 22nd Feb.—Hamburg 20th Sept., General.—Carlowitz & Co.
 HYDRA, Danish bark, 786, C. Christensen, 26th April—Hamburg 5th December, General.—Carlowitz & Co.
 JARAS, Peruvian bark, 398, M. Janila, 17th Nov.—Callao (Peru) 30th August, General.—Gonsalves & Co.
 MCCLAUREN, American ship, 1,313, F. L. Oakes, 28th April—New York 30th November, Petroleum.—Order.
 ST. JAMES, American ship, 1,487, W. D. Burnham, 28th April—Shanghai 21st April, Ballast.—Russell & Co.
 ORIENT, German bark, 461, H. R. Gontard, 6th April—Singapore 10th Feb., Timber.—Wiel & Co.
 SARA MEXICANA, Peruvian schooner, 245, A. Munatling, 4th July—Salgo 27th June, Rice.—Captain.
 VORING, Norwegian bark, 302, O. P. Larsen, 22nd April—Kel Island 17th March, Timber.—Siemssen & Co.
 WM. LE LACHUR, British bark, 573, W. Auld, 17th March—Hobolus 31st January, Iron, Copper, &c.—Wing Wo Chan & Co.
 ZOO, German schooner, 79, Anderson, 21st April—New Britain 5th March, Peco-de-met.—Blackhead & Co.

To be Let.
TO LET.
 NOS. 25 & 27, ELGIN STREET, behind the Old Union Church.
 Apply to
 HONGKONG, 25th February, 1891. [60]

TO LET.
 HOUSE No. 22 in WYNDHAM STREET, at \$31 per month, including taxes, and from 1st of May.
 FOUR GROUND ROOMS of the same house at \$12 per month; no Cook's-room; Water for these Rooms.
 House No. 1, CHANCERY LANE, at \$15 as heretofore.
 Apply to
 V. GUTIERREZ, 24, Wyndham Street.
 HONGKONG, 25th April, 1891. [626]

TO LET.
 HOUSES at the Peak, and at BRILLIOS TERRACE.
 Room and Shop in BRACONFIELD ARCADE, Queen's Road.
 GODOWNS in Duddell Street.
 Apply to
 BELLIOS & Co.
 HONGKONG, 25th April, 1891. [627]

TO LET.
 NOS. 9 & 11, SEYMOUR TERRACE.
 ROOMS in College Chambers No. 4, OLD BAILEY STREET.
 OFFICES and CHAMBERS in Connaught House, Queen's Road Central.
 OFFICE in Victoria Buildings.
 No. 2, PEDDER'S HILL.
 Apply to
 DAVID SASSOON, SONS & Co.
 HONGKONG, 10th April, 1891. [13]

TO BE LET SHORTLY.
 AN exceedingly comfortable and cool 6 ROOMED HOUSE.
 Apply to
 THE SECRETARY, Humphreys Estate & Finance Co., Ltd.
TO BE LET OR SOLD,
 On favourable terms, with immediate Possession.
 EIGHT HOUSES at "Mountain View," Peak District, near Plunkett's Gap. If sold, part of the Purchase money can remain on Mortgage.
 Apply to
 JOHN A. JUPP, 38 & 40, Queen's Road Central, HONGKONG, 10th April, 1891. [36]

TO LET AT THE PEAK,
 Possession 1st May, 1891.
 THE HOUSE "CREGGAN," Best position.
 Apply to
 M. S. SASSOON & Co.
 HONGKONG, 10th April, 1891. [599]

THE KOWLOON LAND AND BUILDING COMPANY, LIMITED.
TO LET.
 KNUTSFORD TERRACE, KOWLOON.
 HOUSES with 5 ROOMS, including Bath-rooms. Tennis Courts. Good view and Healthy situation. Rent and Taxes \$32 a month.
 Apply to
 THE HONGKONG LAND INVESTMENT & AGENCY CO., Ltd.
 HONGKONG, 24th March 1891. [482]

TO LET.
 With Immediate Possession.
 No. 17, PRAYA CENTRAL.
 OFFICES—above Messrs. Douglas, Laprak & Co.'s Premises.
 Apply to
 THE HONGKONG LAND INVESTMENT & AGENCY CO., Ltd.
 HONGKONG, 16th December, 1890. [49]

TO BE LET.
 NO. 10, SEYMOUR TERRACE.
 Apply to
 HERCULES J. SCOTT.
 HONGKONG, 3rd February, 1891. [127]

Notices of Firms.
AGENCY
 MITSU BISHI COLLIERIES.
 MR. JOHN GRANT will take charge of this Agency during my absence from the Colony.
 H. U. JEFFRIES, Agent.
 HONGKONG, 23rd April, 1891. [620]

NOTICE.
 THE PARTNERSHIP between HOLMES and RODDY, Solicitors, is dissolved to-day by mutual consent.
 HENRY J. HOLMES, ARTHUR B. RODDY.
 HONGKONG, 14th April, 1891.

NOTICE.
 THE Underigned will carry on business at his OFFICE No. 54, Queen's Road.
 HENRY J. HOLMES, Solicitor.
 HONGKONG, 14th April, 1891. [579]

Dr. Knorr's ANTIPYRINE.
 (Dose for Adults 15 to 25 grains troy.)
 IS the most approved and most efficacious remedy in cases of HEADACHE, MIGRAINE, NEURALGIA, RHEUMATISM, FEVER, TYPHUS, ERYSIPELAS, HOOPING-COUGH, and many other complaints. It is also the very best Antiseptic. Highly recommended by the medical Faculty. To be had from every reputable Chemist and Druggist. Ask for DR. KNORR'S ANTIPYRINE! Each Tin bears the inventor's signature, "Dr. KNORR" in red letters.
 Supplies constantly on hand at the China Export Import, and Bank Co.—Sole Agents for China. Beware of spurious imitations!
 HONGKONG, 25th May, 1891. [124]

Hotels.
STAG HOTEL.
 QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL, HONGKONG.
 THIS HOTEL, situated in the most Central part of Hongkong, has recently been refitted, and has excellent accommodation for visitors.
 The Table is supplied with every delicacy of the Season.
 WINES, LIQUORS, &c. of the very best quality only.
 Charges Moderate.
 HING LEE & Co., Proprietors.
 HONGKONG, 14th April, 1891. [573]

THE SHAMEN HOTEL.
 BRITISH CONCESSION, CANTON.
 THIS FIRST CLASS HOTEL, admirably situated within a few minutes walk of the River Steamer Wharves, is now open to receive Visitors.
 The Bed-rooms are cool, airy and comfortably furnished, and the spacious Dining Room, Sitting Room, and accommodation generally will be found equal to the best Hotels in the Far East.
 The Table D'Hôte is supplied with every luxury in season, and the cuisine is in experienced hands.
 Wines, Spirits, Malt Liquors, etc., of the best quality only.
 A. F. D. ROZARIO, Manager.
 HONGKONG, 4th November, 1890. [1047]

PEAK HOTEL.
 VICTORIA GAP, PEAK, Adjoining the Tramway Terminus.
 THE most beautiful position in the environs of Hongkong situated 1,250 feet above sea level, commanding magnificent views of the City and Harbour of Victoria, the mainland of China and neighbouring islands.
 Cool Southern breezes in Summer with perfect protection from N.E. Winds of Winter.
 The best accommodation of Visitors with every comfort, convenience and attention.
 The Cuisine is under the best supervision and every luxury obtainable is supplied.
 WINES, etc. the best Brands and finest qualities only are kept.
 TERMS MODERATE.
 Telephone No. 25.
 PEAK HOTEL & TRADING Co., Ltd., Proprietors.
 HONGKONG, 13th February, 1891. [277]

THE BOA VISTA.
 BISHOP'S BAY, MACAO.
 THIS HOUSE, situated on the sea shore in one of the best and healthiest parts of Macao, and commanding an admirable view facing the South, was OPENED as a HOTEL on the 1st July.
 Every comfort will be provided for visitors, with excellent cuisine and choice Wines.
 Hot, Cold, Showers, and Warm Water Baths, and well Ventilated Dining, Billiard, and Reading Rooms, and well supplied Bar.
 A small dairy is attached to the premises.
 MRS. MARIA B. DOS REMEDIOS, Proprietress.
 HONGKONG, 13th February, 1891. [34]

Intimations.
NOTICE.
 THE PUNJION AND SUNGHIE DUA SAMANTAN MINING COMPANY, LIMITED.
 ISSUE OF 60,000 PREFERENCE SHARES OF \$1 EACH FULLY PAID.
 APPLICATIONS will be received at the Company's Office, No. 9, Queen's Road Central, Hongkong, for 60,000 \$1 Shares bearing a right to a cumulative Preferential Dividend of 12 per cent.
 In the event of Company being wound up the Holders of the said Preference Shares shall be entitled to have the surplus assets of the Company applied in the first place to repaying to them of the amount paid up on such Preference Shares, the residue of such surplus assets shall belong to and be divided among the Ordinary Shareholders of the Company.
 Application forms are to be obtained from and to be sent in to the Company's Bankers, the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation in Hongkong on or before TUESDAY, the 5th May 1891, accompanied by payment of \$1 per share for each share applied for.
 By Order of the Board,
 A. O'D. GOURDIN, Secretary.
 HONGKONG, 23rd April, 1891. [624]

UNION INSURANCE SOCIETY OF CANTON, LIMITED.
NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS.
 AN INTERIM BONUS of Eighteen per cent. upon Contributions for the year 1890 has been declared. WARRANTS may be had on application at the Office of the Society, on and after the 6th May.
 By the Order of the Board,
 N. J. EDE, Secretary.
 HONGKONG 25th April, 1891. [628]

HONGKONG RIFLE ASSOCIATION.
COMPETITION for the "FAIR" CUP.
 will be held on SATURDAY next, the 2nd prox, commencing at 1.15 P.M. Ranges 200 and 300 yards; 7 shots standing at 200 yards, and 7 shots sitting or kneeling at 300 yards. Entrance fee 20 cents.
 A Launch will leave the P. & O. Pier at 2.45 P.M. to convey competitors.
 FRANK COLLINS, Hon. Secretary.
 HONGKONG, 28th April, 1891. [65]

HONGKONG JOCKEY CLUB.
HONGKONG DERBY, 1892.
 THE WEIGHTS for the above RACE will be weight for inches, not 10st. 10lb. as heretofore.
 E. H. GORE-BOOTH, Clerk of the Course.
 HONGKONG, 17th March, 1891. [143]

NOTICE.
JAY'S SANITARY COMPOUNDS COMPANY, LIMITED.
JAY'S WOOD PRESERVER OR ANTISEPTIC PAINT.
 THE Underigned have this day been appointed SOLE AGENTS for the sale of these PERFECT DISINFECTANTS, and are prepared to supply quantities to suit purchasers, at Wholesale Prices. Extra Special terms for Shipping and large Orders.
 Sir ROBERT RAWLINSON, C.B., C.E., Chief Sanitary Engineer, Local Government Board, London, says
 "It is the best Disinfectant in use."
 W. G. HUMPHREYS & Co., Bank Buildings.
 HONGKONG, 19th June, 1891. [18]

Intimations.
BAY VIEW HOUSE.
 MR. J. WM. OSBORNE begs to inform his Friends, acquaintances and the public of Hongkong that the Bay View House, formerly The Whitfield Station will be OPENED on SATURDAY, the 2nd May prox.
 Arrangements have been made with Mr. KENNEDY to run his Busses Every (half) hour from the Clock Tower to Bay View House every day.
 FARES:—10 Cents each way.
 Hongkong, 29th April, 1891. [650]

NOTICE.
HONGKONG & WHAMPOA DOCK COMPANY, LIMITED.
SHIPMASTERS AND ENGINEERS
 S are respectfully informed that, if upon their arrival in this Harbour some of the COMPANY'S FOREMEN should be at hand, ORDERS FOR REPAIRS, if sent to the HEAD OFFICE, No. 14, Praya Central, will receive prompt attention.
 In the event of complaints being found necessary, communication with the Underigned is requested, when immediate steps will be taken to rectify the cause of dissatisfaction.
 D. GILLIES, Secretary.
 Hongkong, 25th August, 1888. [116]

DENTISTRY.
FIRST CLASS WORKMANSHIP AND MODERATE FEES.
 MR. WONG TAI-FONG, Surgeon Dentist, (Formerly articled Apprentice, and latterly assistant to Dr. DOCKERS), HAS REMOVED
 THE MARINE HOUSE, QUEEN'S ROAD, (next to the Telegraph Companies).
 CONSULTATION FREE.
 Hongkong, 7th March, 1891. [395]

SIEN TING,
 No. 10, D'AGUILAR STREET.
 TERMS VERY MODERATE.
 Consultation free.
 Hongkong, 18th March, 1891. [448]

G. FALCONER & CO.,
 WATCHES AND CHRONOMETER MANUFACTURERS AND JEWELLERS.
 NAUTICAL INSTRUMENTS, CHARTS AND BOOKS.
 No. 48, Queen's Road Central. [622]

NOTICE.
 GRIFFITH'S PHOTOGRAPHIC ROOMS
 1, Ice House Road are suitably lighted to produce all styles of Portraiture in any weather. CABINETS from \$5 a dozen. CARTES DE VISITE from \$3 a dozen. LIFE SIZED BUSTS in Colour, or Black & White. IVORY MINIATURES, &c., &c. NEW VIEWS OF HONGKONG and the Coast Ports are always ready.
 Hongkong, 24th September, 1890. [138]

NOTICE.
 THE Underigned undertakes to produce First Class Photographs. Gentlemen wishing to patronize may have PROOFS or PROOFS sent to them for approval, and if not satisfied, no charge will be made. Cabinets (enamelled) \$5 a dozen. Cartes de Visite do. 2. PUN WOO, PHOTOGRAPHER, 84, Queen's Road Central, (Top Floor of Teen Sing, Bookbinder), Hongkong, 17th February, 1891. [298]

THE HONGKONG LAND INVESTMENT AND AGENCY COMPANY, LIMITED.
 SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL \$5,000,000.
 PAID UP CAPITAL 2,500,000.
 RESERVE FUND 1,250,000.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS.
 Hon. J. J. CHAMBERLAIN, Managing Director.
 Hon. C. P. CHATER, Vice-Chairman.
 LEE SING, Esq.
 S. C. MICHAELSEN, Esq.
 J. S. MOSES, Esq.
 G. E. NOBLE, Esq.
 POON PONG, Esq.
 D. R. SASSOON, Esq.

BANKERS.
THE HONGKONG & SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.
 MONEY advanced on Mortgage, on Land, and Buildings.
 Estates Managed and all kinds of Agency and Commission business relating to land, etc., conducted.
 Full particulars can be obtained at the Company's Offices, No. 5, Queen's Road Central.
 A. SHELTON HOOPER, Secretary.
 Victoria Buildings, Hongkong, 17th Feb. 1891. [162]

J. & R. HARVEY & Co.,
 DUNDASHILL DISTILLERY, GLASGOW.
 Established 1770.
SCOTCH WHISKIES.
 Finest Pure Malt Scotch Whisky.
 O.E.M. Old Highland Malt Whisky.
 F.O.S. Fine Old Scotch Whisky.
 V.O.S. Very Old Scotch Whisky.

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 Sole Agent for China and Japan.
 Hongkong, 28th August, 1890. [160]

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NOTICE.
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YAU-MA-TI ENGINEERING WORKS, KOWLOON.
 OFFICE—No. 12, D'Aguiar Street, Hongkong, 25th August, 1890. [130]

W. S. MARTEN,
ARTISTIC DECORATOR,
 2, DUDDELL STREET, HONGKONG.
 Hongkong, 6th April, 1890. [31]

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 SCHEELE & Co., Sole Agents, No. 16, Stanley Street, Hongkong, 2nd December, 1890. [144]

JOHN AMBROSE CLARKE,
 Teacher of Officers and Engineers, No. 75, WYNDHAM STREET, Opposite Pedder's Police Station.
CANDIDATES prepared for the MARINE BOARD EXAMINATIONS. Author of the "NEW NAVIGATION," And an "Arithmetic" for Engineers, &c. Hongkong, 7th February, 1891. [246]

Printed and Published by ROBERT FRASER, BATH, No. 4, Pedder's Hill, in the City of Victoria, Hongkong.

MAIL SUPPLEMENT.

The Hongkong Telegraph.

No. 2831

THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 1891.

SIX DOLLARS
PER QUARTER

BIRTHS.

At 8, Henan Road, Shanghai, on the 19th inst., the wife of J. B. CAMERON, of a son.
On April 22nd, at St. John's College, Shanghai, the wife of J. RHINE, Esq., of H.M. the King of the Netherlands Consulate, Amoy, of a daughter.
On the 22nd April, at 21, Elgin Road, the wife of T. DE FARIA-NEVES, of a son.

DEATHS.

At Hankow, on the 14th inst., WILLIAM FORBES SHARP.
At Shanghai, on 22nd April, WILLIAM ADAM BURN, aged 55 years.
At the Government Civil Hospital, on the 27th instant, Captain JOHN PARKINSON HOVLAND, steamer *Fatshan*, aged 50.

The Hongkong Telegraph.

HONGKONG, THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 1891.

THE GAMBLING ABORTION.

THE *little noir* in this most original of legislative efforts was discovered in section 3 of the proposed ordinance. The section reads:—"A place shall be deemed to be opened, kept or used as a common gaming house, or for the purpose of a lottery, when gambling is one of the main and principal objects for which the said place is opened, kept or used, although such place is also used as an ordinary social club, and the public at large have not access thereto." This was too much even for the Official Phalanx of the Hongkong Legislative Council to swallow without making wry faces, and from Governor DES VŒUX downwards—and it is long way down from his Excellency to that lay figure the Colonial Treasurer—they prevaricated and wanted time, thought gambling was a wicked thing and angels' visits were few and far between, and opined they would quickly settle the difficulty if they only knew how. But they didn't know how, and hence the trouble. We don't know who drafted the original ordinance, and there is no desire on our part to print a single offensive word regarding that *chef-d'œuvre* of legal short-sightedness. But we must really break a lance in defence of public rights, no matter whether Mr. ACKROYD or Mr. GOODMAN is responsible for the thing so realistically described in the heading of this article.

The ostensible object of the *Gambling Ordinance* was to remove a doubt as to what actually constituted a common gaming house in this colony. A large number of so-called Chinese clubs had sprung up in the town to which all and sundry could resort and indulge in games of chance, and in certain cases, when the offenders were hauled up before the magistrate, they were acquitted, owing to the alleged ambiguity of the language of the section under which they were charged. All that was required to regulate gambling in Hongkong and keep it within reasonable limits, was to distinctly lay down, without any room for doubt, the difference between a properly constituted club and a common gaming house. A simple matter apparently, but it nevertheless resulted in the evolution of a very much involved and, as a whole, decidedly idiotic ordinance which threatened the rights and independence of every social institution in Hongkong. And the Unofficial Members very naturally kicked against it, and Governor DES VŒUX practically upheld their objections.

We have already quoted the objectionable section of the ordinance as originally drafted, and we cannot really see that the proposed amendment is any improvement. It reads—"A place which is used as an ordinary social club to which the public at large have not access, shall nevertheless be deemed a common gaming house if kept or used either for the playing of any of the games mentioned in A, or for the purpose mentioned in B in section 2." Now, before going farther, we must explain, as far as we can, what the misty references to "A" and "B" mean. The genius who drafted this legislative masterpiece wants to define what a lottery is; forgetting that the *Lottery Act* requires neither explanation nor definition. And he says that "a lottery includes any game, method or device whereby money or money's worth is distributed or allotted in any manner depending upon or to be determined by chance or lot (or the result of any race or contest); whether the same be held, drawn, exercised or managed within or without the colony." And there is a lot more ignorant rot intended to mean the same thing. Horse-racing is a perfectly legitimate and legal pastime; a every hedge lawyer ought to know right well, stakes in connection with racing are just as valid as the transactions of ordinary mercantile life; but our Hongkong-legal *Sorcerer* whoever he may be—not that that matters very much, as he is most probably a fitting representative of the mixed crowd of knaves and fools who have flooded this colony to its detriment, for years—has made the subscribers to an ordinary racing sweepstake, a universally recognised legal contract; common criminals in the eye of the law and subject to the pains and penalties provided for by this ordinance. Supposing ten owners of race-horses, subscribed for a place for a cup, or sweepstake to be run at Happy Valley, they would place themselves under the ban of this ridiculous definition of a lottery and could be fined or sent to prison. Was this necessary to prevent the existence of low Chinese gambling houses under the name of clubs? Will offensive interference with the comparatively innocent and certainly

harmless sports and pastimes of Europeans tend in any shape or form to reduce the particular vice against which this law is specially aimed? If not, what is the good of it, as at present framed?

The legal gentleman who framed this model of Hongkong modern jurisprudence, must either have been imitating RIP VAN WINKLE or attending the Sunday school classes of the Salvation Army. He defines a common gaming house as "any place opened, kept or used for playing therein at (sic) any game of chance, or any mixed game of chance and skill, (1) in which a bank is kept by one or more of the players exclusively of the other or others, or (2) in which the chances of the game are not all favorable to all the players, including among (sic) the players the banker or other person by whom the game is managed, or against whom the players stake, play or bet—(3) in which any commission, or percentage is charged in connection with the game, the stakes or the winnings—or (4) in which excessive stakes are ordinarily played for." Any place which is held for the purpose of a lottery or lotteries comes under the ordinance. If there is anything new, or original, or sensible in the foregoing, we shall be glad if the Attorney General or any of our readers will point it out. The existing *Lottery Acts*, unless Sir GEORGE PHILLIPPOWS is all at sea, and we don't think he is, fully provide for race-lotteries, pari-mutuel, totalisator, and everything connected with horse-racing—vide his lordship's judgment in the very interesting case of *Fraser-Smith v. Moore* in 1884—and we cannot see the slightest necessity or any reasonable grounds for this threatened interference with the long established social privileges of the foreign residents of Hongkong. Horse-racing, race-lotteries, the totalisator and pari-mutuel, a dollar limit at poker or a fifty cent point at whist, are to be made criminal offences—why? have these wicked indulgences shocked public morality, outraged "old custom," interfered in any way with vested interests or the rights of the community? Oh! dear not! but the low Chinese gaming dens must be shut up, and our official legal luminaries cannot see the difference between a low hell, open to all and sundry for purposes of gaming and for nothing else in Lascar Row, and the Hongkong Club in Queen's Road and the City Club in Ice House Street. If Governor DES VŒUX cannot see his way to absolutely withdraw this most Quixotic of intended reforms, the representatives of the public in the local legislature should practically protest by declining to vote and leaving the Council-room *en masse*.

The man who makes a common gaming house of every respectable club in the colony, where games of chance are common—whist, poker, euche, billiards, bowls, etc.—in which excessive stakes are ordinarily played for, is only fit to be tarred and feathered and left in that condition. What are excessive stakes? Twenty dollars or twenty cents? Who shall decide? A Hongkong police magistrate? Not scarcely! that feeble bubble has burst. Sir WILLIAM DES VŒUX is leaving here shortly for good; before he leaves, we strongly recommend him to appoint a Mixed Commission of sensible and practical men to investigate the gambling evil in Hongkong and to report the requirements of the colony in that direction. To pass the present Ordinance in its present shape would be the height of folly.

DETERRENT SENTENCES.

At a meeting of the Finance Committee of the Hongkong Legislative Council held in December last Mr. Registrar ACKROYD, who was then acting as Attorney-General, in giving his views on the proposed extension of Victoria Gaol, practically advocated wholesale flogging as the punishment most likely to have a deterrent effect in the reduction of crime in this colony. And notwithstanding the fact that the Secretary of State positively and absolutely declined to accede to the recommendation of the Gaol Inquiry Committee, of which the worthy Registrar of the Supreme Court was chairman, that flogging should be sanctioned for a number of comparatively minor offences, we now find Mr. ACKROYD in his present position of Acting Puisne Judge ignoring the very plainly expressed instructions of the Home Government, and ordering the lash with no sparing hand on a hapless prisoner who had the misfortune to come under his jurisdiction.

On the broad question of flogging for offences against law and order there is no room for the judges in Crown colonies to make any serious mistake. Public opinion in England has distinctly said that flogging as a legal punishment, excepting for garroters and in cases where brutal violence has been used, will not be tolerated, and that expression of public opinion has been supported by Her Majesty's Government. Fifteen years ago the state of affairs in Hongkong was simply infamous; public floggings at the back of the Harbour Office were of frequent occurrence, the almost daily scenes at the whipping post, being of a most degrading and demoralising character. The colony owes the removal of that relic of barbarism to Sir JOHN POTT HENNESSY, who not only abolished public flogging but reduced corporal punishment in gaol to the narrowest limits; and this he did with the entire approval of the Secretary of State, and to the satisfaction of the vast majority of the Hongkong community, the principal dissenters being certain ecclesiastics of the old and brutal

rhyme, some of whom are still staunch advocates of the triangles and the "cat." Of late years sentences of flogging have been greatly on the increase, the present Chief Justice having set what we consider a most unworthy example both in this direction and generally as regards severity of sentences, an example, however, which the Acting Puisne Judge appears determined to imitate. This policy is neither in harmony with the times in which we live, nor is it calculated to effect the main objects in view—the reduction of crime, the rehabilitation to honest life of first offenders and other persons who are not habitual criminals, and the intelligent treatment of the whole criminal classes. Hongkong has retrograded, not advanced, in its criminal system during the past ten years, and it is undoubtedly the excessively severe punishments inflicted in cases of petty larceny, and in many instances for other trifling offences both at the Magistracy and Supreme Court, have contributed in no inconsiderable extent to the increase of crime and the steady augmentation of the ranks of the criminal classes. A Chinese who is once flogged in gaol is at once placed outside the pale of decent life; any honest occupation for the future is rendered almost impossible, and the indelible marks of his disgrace, which he will bear on his body all his life, render him a social pariah and drive him to steal in order to satisfy the pangs of hunger. He must either starve or steal; he prefers the latter, is again arrested, tried, sentenced, flogged—and becomes a hopeless case. It is against this short-sighted method of manufacturing criminals that we have consistently protested for years.

At the Criminal Sessions on the 20th inst. Acting Puisne Judge ACKROYD sentenced FAN KI, an ex-police constable, to three years' imprisonment with hard labour, and three whippings of twenty-five strokes each within the first six months. The man's crime, to use the learned Judge's own definition, was in watching so as to allow his confederates to commit a robbery. This was the head and front of the policeman's offending; and even admitting his guilt and its aggravation by the fact of his being a public officer, the sentence was out of all proportion to the crime, especially as it was a first offence and the prisoner had personally committed no violence. For the seventy-five lashes we can see no justification whatever, and his Excellency the Governor should interfere and prevent what on the face of it is an uncalled-for outrage on public justice. The inequalities of sentences passed in the Hongkong Courts have become little short of a scandal and should, long since have been firmly dealt with by the Executive; we shall review a few noteworthy examples, for public information, at an early date.

"MAN'S INHUMANITY TO MAN."

"The same old thing, I suppose!" Such was the satirical comment of the Secretary of the Hongkong, Canton and Macao Steamboat Company, Limited, on learning that the senior officer of the Fleet, Capt. JOHN P. HOVLAND—whose death we recorded on Monday last—had been removed from the steamship *Fatshan* on a stretcher to the Government Civil Hospital, suffering from a severe attack of pleurisy, aggravated by a general break-up, which eventually caused his death. The remark was not a judicious one; it was totally uncalled for, and had circumstances been otherwise, it was in shocking bad taste. The Secretary of the Steamboat Company enjoys the reputation—whatever it may be worth—of being the cynic par excellence of this colony. The words of wisdom which fall from his lips like glittering dewdrops are no doubt treasured by an admiring Board of Directors; his opinions, to use MACAULAY's well-known phrase, may be "adulated with scorn" and still may be the virgin metal believed in by some shareholders; but we fail to see how he is going to justify, giving him every licence and every possible advantage available, the gross and bitter and cowardly insult he offered to a man who was practically on his death-bed and who for the long period of nineteen years had been a most faithful servant of the Company which pays Mr. THOMAS ARNOLD his very handsome monthly stipend. In England the remark which opens this article, under the circumstances would probably have subjected the speaker to personal violence of a serious character; in Hongkong it will possibly lead to an increase of salary; but to those who know the truth and are not altogether debased from common manhood, that famous saying of ROBERT BURNS about "man's inhumanity to man" will inevitably press upon the memory when the Secretary of the Steamboat Co.'s charitable comment upon an old and trusted servant, who had practically died at his post, comes to be carefully and dispassionately analysed and considered.

"The same old thing, I suppose!" The meaning is only too obvious, its brutal heartlessness leaves no room for further question. But where is the justification? Ay, there's the rub, Mr. Secretary. For nineteen years JOHN HOVLAND served the Steamboat Company faithfully and well; he was blown up in that wretched abortion of a steamer the *Fatshan* and only saved his life by a miracle; he walked the streets of Hongkong on his uppers for many months through the base ingratitude of the Directors; for nearly seven years afterwards he continued the Company's steamers in a manner that has never been excelled; against the non-

of his best friends he stuck to his post, after his health had exhibited evident symptoms of an impending collapse, until Nature fairly gave way and he had to be carried, as on that fatal night the 24th February, 1884, to the Government Hospital, where he died two days ago, a victim to the exaggerated notions of duty and to the gross neglect of the Directors of the Steamboat Company, who ought to have relieved him from duty weeks ago. And his requiem from the official representative of the Directors was that chaste specimen of cynical philosophy, "the same old thing, I suppose!" For shame!

The success achieved by the Steamboat Company since its inception has been due in no inconsiderable degree to the skill and care exhibited by the commanders and officers in managing the steamers, and also to the courtesy, tact, and obliging dispositions of the captains in dealing with passengers. No commander in the service has been more deservedly popular than Captain HOVLAND, none has ever been more kindly and obliging to his passengers, none more skilful and efficient in the performance of his onerous and important duties, none a more devoted and faithful servant and advocate of the Steamboat Company—no man living has done more for the interests of his employers and not one has been so severely recompensed. "The same old thing, I suppose," sneered His Mightiness, the "mere scribe" of the Company—the description is Mr. BELLIOS', chairman of the Company, not ours—when he learned that JOHN HOVLAND, after a half-life-time's hard work in the service, had been carried to the Hospital—to die. And we repeat "for shame!" HOVLAND and the present writer have had a dispute, extending over some years, over a well-known passage from "Horace," we never could satisfactorily settle it, and it is too late now, but we hope one of these days to oblige the Secretary of the Steamboat Co. with our version of the wisdom of the great Latin philosopher and *savant*, and to be able to convince him that to carry into effect the cynicism in which he appears to delight, a man must be as insensible as a granite rock.

THE GOVERNOR AND THE PUBLIC.

It has frequently been our duty, especially since his return from sick leave in December last, to acquaint Governor DES VŒUX with unpleasant facts. His Excellency doubtless was not influenced one hair's breadth by what we said, although he has hitherto had the grace (save and except when the Military Contribution question was on the tapis) to listen to the voice of the public to some extent as represented by the Unofficial Members of the Legislative Council. Yesterday morning (27th inst.), however, he took the unprecedented and in our opinion very questionable course of convening a semi-private meeting of the Unofficial Members, at very short notice. Those gentlemen responded to the invitation with more or less alacrity—thereby, without the least shadow of doubt, weakening their hitherto unassailable claim to public support—and met His Excellency (who was accompanied by General DROST BAXTER) in the Council Chamber. At shorthand-writer from the *Daily Press* was in attendance, in order, we presume, that the representatives of the tax-payers might be impressed with the fact that their utterances would be recorded, not necessarily as a guarantee of good faith, to reverse the editorial phrase, but for publication if they said anything that could be construed as "disrespectful." No independent reporters were in attendance, no accurate and authorised account of what took place is yet obtainable, and His Excellency's Private Secretary this afternoon gave us to understand that we were dependent on his master's august pleasure as to whether we ever got one or not.

So far our readers will simply have formed the opinion that this paper, its smarting under the loss of some good "copy," but we will try to show that under cover of this policy of privacy, His Excellency is concealing, or trying to conceal, the fact that he has gravely insulted the whole of the residents in this Colony, as represented by Messrs. P. KRATZ, J. J. KESWICK, T. H. WHITEHEAD and HO KAI. For nearly an hour, ignoring any interruption, Sir WILLIAM DES VŒUX stood in front of those gentlemen and harangued them on the text of "Humility" in language which we have reason to believe, was not resented simply on account of the Governor's former popularity and his present shattered state of health. He accused them of seeking to dictate to her Majesty's Representative on the subject of the Military Contribution and the Salaries dispute; he directly insinuated that their joint letters on these subjects were insolent to a degree, and he said, in so many words—"If our informant's memory is to be relied on—that he should make the Colony suffer by neglecting his duty to it, if the Unofficial Members did not acknowledge their sins and withdraw from their offensive position."

Such is the tone which our servant—the servant of every tax-payer in this Colony—has adopted towards the public's representatives in the "Coward's Castle" of the guarded Council Chamber. His Excellency is, in every way, we understand, that the medical diagnosis of his case is very gloomy and the "Hongkong Community" can forgive much in a sick man who has proved himself, in several British Colonies, a very able representative of English interests. On that account—and on no other—the non-

unofficial members contented themselves with briefly expressing their dissent, instead of turning on their heels in eloquent silence. Their position must have been a most painful one; conscious of the justice of their cause though they were, they had to submit to be addressed in terms which at any other time could not have been too hotly resented, and that they have the sympathy of the public whose cause they have championed admits of no doubt. The situation is critical—how critical we cannot say until, by a perusal of the utterances of his Excellency yesterday, and by the lapse of time, we see exactly what weight to attach to a sick man's fulminations.

KOWLOON CITY EN FETE.

If any commentary on the filmsiness of the boasted civilisation of Westerners were needed—if a good example of the latent barbarism common to the European and the Chinese alike were demanded—a visit to Kowloon City yesterday (26th inst.) would have supplied the want. On the strength of sensational rumours, that six so-called "pirates" were to be decapitated—and a woman—tortured by the *ling chi* process at Kowloon City, a morbid mob of residents in this Colony spent their Sabbath in reeking gambling-hells and grog-shops across the water, hoping that they would be so fortunate as to see seven hapless wretches—especially the woman—brought to make a Hongkong holiday! From Saturday afternoon until late last night that pestilential spot was the scene of what can only be described as a disgusting and disgraceful orgie. A more mixed crowd was surely never seen there than that which, until dark, gazed expectantly towards Kowloon Point, round which the gun-boats bearing the condemned would have to come; women, not one nor two, but over two score, attended the promised torture of one of their own sex with all tranquillity. Drinking, gambling, elbowing past lepers to gaze curiously on the exposed heads of the nineteen men who were executed the preceding week—all these and many more examples of the blessings of modern Christianity must have helped the missionary cause greatly, and impressed on the minds of the pagan natives the greater good of being Christians, as thereby they got a day off each week to go and see executions. But all the moralising in the world won't alter these things, we suppose, so we need not waste time and excellent sentiment on the subject, but go with the stream, and supply for general information, a few ghastly details.

The *ling chi* process is of a three-fold nature. It is commonly interpreted by the learned ignorant as meaning "cutting into a thousand pieces." As a matter of fact that punishment is called the *tsin hi*, and is reserved for rebels against the reigning dynasty. The common form of the particular barbarity now under review is the *tsai ling chi*, the "piece-cutting." In which thirty-six wounds are inflicted. An excellent example of that form of capital punishment is afforded by the photograph taken by Mr. SHARP, late chief engineer of the steamer *Fatshan*, at Canton, last year, excepting that he did not get the mutilated head. This terrible punishment is inflicted on paricides, and on women who have poisoned their husbands. The third, and least terrible form, is the *tsai ling chi*, or eight cuts. It is reserved for women who have committed crimes too serious to be expiated by simple strangling. It was this last mode of torture which rumour, alleged would be inflicted in this particular case on the Vanishing Lady—or rather the Phantom Female—at Kowloon City last Saturday.

It is hard to say how much (or how little) truth there was in this rumor, but a member of our staff, who was at Kowloon City on Saturday and Sunday, saw the mandarin and the "commander of the forces," both of whom said they expected the gunboats at any moment. In the squalid little gaol were two middle-aged women—one of whom had a very contused arm, which she said she was unable to get doctored. An official gave our representative to understand that they were implicated in the same crime as the woman who was to be tortured, having helped her to kill her daughter-in-law; but somehow they had escaped her sentence. There was certainly a pretence made of keeping men on the look-out for the gunboats, and a man who was alleged to be an assistant executioner was pointed out, and apparently filled the responsible situation to his own satisfaction. At the same time the official countenances wore an expression which implied concealed joy at having fooled the barbarians so completely, and in view of the fact that the gambling dens were driving such a trade as they never did before, the probability is that the modern Chinese *Shylock*, His Excellency, LI HAN-CHANG, and his shabby crowd of obsequious subordinates were at the bottom of the whole thing. The Customs officials in Hongkong, who would certainly have heard if the gunboats really had left Canton on Saturday morning, assert that the whole thing was a canard.

THE PROPOSED WATER-WORKS FOR CANTON.

In the local Chinese paper *Ching Ngai Sun* for 15th inst. is well informed, the Canton Water-works scheme, which has attracted considerable public attention in this colony lately, has collapsed. Our contemporary publishes what purports to be replies from Viceroy LI HAN-CHANG and the Governor of Canton to the petitions of Ho Lung Kan, who, we understand, was one of the

principal promoters of the projected new water supply for the capital of Kwangtung. The Viceroy sets out that the labour and expenses necessary to carry out the proposed works would be enormous, and that if the community were called upon to contribute towards the cost and upkeep, serious troubles would probably arise. And as LI HAN-CHANG, at his advanced age, is naturally desirous of avoiding any conflict with an irate populace who most assuredly would "kick against" any increased taxation even for such a boon as a plentiful supply of good water, he has solved the difficulty to his own satisfaction at least by shelving the petition, and refusing to memorialise the Emperor in favor of the project. His Excellency has further given orders for the immediate arrest and severe punishment of Ho Lung Kan, whom he describes as an official dismissed from office, and who has already been under the ban of the Emperor's displeasure.

The Governor's reply is couched in pretty much the same terms as the Viceroy's. He opines that if the people were forbidden to use water from their own wells—almost every house in Canton has a separate well of its own—and compelled to pay for a supply from the proposed "Water-works," it would be difficult to get them to obey with delight. He also foresees serious troubles in the suggested monthly collection of a water-tax, sums up by concluding that the benefits of the new scheme would be "very little" and the disadvantages proportionately great, and therefore refuses to accede to the petitioners' proposals.

This is only one more instance of the strong disinclination of the Chinese to adopt foreign methods; unless absolutely compelled to do so by the necessities of the moment. The proposed Water-works, would undoubtedly have proved an invaluable boon to the millions who crowd the narrow streets of Canton, but the difficulties in the way of realising the scheme on the lines proposed were almost insuperable from the first. Any attempt to impose a fresh tax on a proverbially conservative and stiff-necked populace, who, Chinese-like, are satisfied with the water already at their disposal, would inevitably have led to riots and bloodshed, and without such tax the carrying out of the works and maintaining them after completion would have been quite impossible. And so the undertaking collapsed.

OUR CONSTITUTIONAL DEAD-LOCK.

We seem to have arrived at a period in the history of this by no means unimportant Crown colony which needs careful thought and most cautious inquiry. The strain at present existing between the official and unofficial members concerning the various questions before the Legislative Council in Hongkong have their counterparts in Ceylon and the Straits Settlements. The questions being dealt with may not have been skillfully handled, nor perhaps are they apt methods of bringing out the fact that discontent exists. The discontent is not, however, on one point or in reference to one question; it is deeper than that; it is the spirit of autocracy versus Government-by-representatives that is on the balance; it is the attempt of the Crown Colonies Government to perpetuate a condition of things which cost one at least of the English Kings his head, and two, or three more their thrones. It is a repetition of the old mistakes which lost the United States to the British Crown. The continued divisions into Unofficial and Official groups in the Legislative Council here betoken a condition of things which has only had one result in the history of the English-speaking people for the last 800 years. It may be the fault of the system of Government more than the governing class which demands reparation, but it is evident that something has to be done, and will be done soon, if not with a "reckless whiff" at least in no uncertain form. We are honoured with a representative of the Queen, and could we get that representative to imitate the position her Majesty holds in matters constitutional we would not object to the infliction of a lay figure. But such is not the case. Her Majesty's representative is permitted by the peculiar constitution of a Crown colony to reign pretty much as he pleases. He laughs at unruly members of his Council and rejoices how effectively he handles these revolutionary gentlemen; he creates a Sanitary Board in which the elect of the people may expend their energetic howling against what is a mere screen for the autocratic doling of wilfully short-sighted officialdom. All these are tactics which hide the truth for a time, but when the Anglo-Saxon seriously takes up matters, especially matters constitutional, we betide any one who obstructs his reaching his goal, more particularly when the advocates of progress are offensively ridiculed by their time-being masters.

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

At a special session of the Justices of the Peace on Tuesday, May 15th, Mr. Robert Lawrence will apply for a license to sell and retail intoxicating liquors at the Mount Austin Hotel, Victoria Gap, and must submit a deposit of £100.

Captain F. de Vere Crighton, who has completed his one year's term of engagement as Military Instructor in the Royal Military College of Sandhurst, has left for England, where he will rejoin his regiment.

action on behalf of these friendless, characterless, hopeless men.

VIII.

"Seldom he smiles, and smiles in such a sort
As if he scorned himself and mocked his spirit
That could be moved to smile at anything."

Julius Caesar.

It would not be an altogether complete description of existence in Gaol if I omitted to include a few brighter gleams as some relief to the black shadows hitherto prevailing in these poor pictures. A prisoner's existence is not all shut-door and skill; he has a few weak pleasures. He can get a book once a week, for instance, so long as he is not undergoing punishment. There is a Prisoners' Library comprising about fifty volumes, which for dullness and dryness are unattractive. In the dim past some Colonial Chaplain got a few dollars granted by Government to organize a library, and he bought a lot of good little story-books, and instructive volumes such as the "Life of Elshah." Then they were bound in sombre black, and stamped with gold stamens on every second page, to prevent the reader from falling into the illusion that he was at his club. Any one could be read in an hour, but by carefully allowing oneself to be lulled by the words, and it is some solace to read even about William and The Butcher, or the story of the career of some other unattractively good little boy. But by the kindness of the then Superintendent a few prisoners were allowed to borrow books from the Officers' Library—a privilege very highly valued by the favored few. It does seem a little incongruous, though, to see No. 1 devouring a three-volume novel bearing Muddle's label on the cover. Poor beggar—it helps him to forget his woes for a while, at any rate.

Christmas Day is the great festival of the year in the Hermitage. In former years one of the Judges provided a good dinner for the inmates, and since his death the Officers' Fine Fund (I believe) has been drawn on to continue the custom. An appetizing breakfast of savoury stew in unlimited quantity was added last Christmas morning, and discounted the roast mutton and plum-pudding at mid-day to some extent. "For that occasion only" the battered, worn-out knives, 14th century forks, and rude iron spoons were replaced by white-handled, tableware; for the guests, the usually served out there were silver plates, and the couple of murderers who had the cooking duty excused themselves. Then there were half-a-dozen oranges for dessert, and (so rumor ran) a drop of something short was mysteriously obtained by one or two lucky fellows. The majority, however, had to content themselves with the Tyam vintage. The year before, a facetious swindler employed at painting managed to draw up three labels—"Brandy," "Rum," and "Beer," and surreptitiously affixed them to big bottles of the latter. On this day license amendment of his comrades, the prisoners may talk without fear of bread-and-water, if they have anything to talk about. There was no work done, of course—not even by the Chinese. Like good children everyone was allowed to stay in the yards a little later than usual instead of being locked up at 4.15 p.m. And when night fell the outside public who lived within half a mile must have listened with wonder to the heavy choruses which broke the wonted stillness, and the cheers for the Founder of the Feast with which the men, invisible from each other though they were, raised their voices untidily before discipline began to be re-asserted, to continue for the next 364 days.

There are little ways of mildly enjoying one's self on ordinary occasions, too; a quiet smile will be excited by the state old joke (only to be risked with a few of the more amiable turnkeys) of "Will you be good enough to lock my gate?" I've got a lot of valuable oakum in here, and it might get stolen. One man excited general admiration among the prisoners by a pretty cool act. A turnkey was passing along the corridor one evening, smoking a cigar, when the prisoner stretched forth his hand, calmly took the cigar from between the turnkey's lips, and finished it in the seclusion of his cell. He didn't get reported, strange to say.

Many are the devices resorted to by both Chinese and foreign prisoners to secrete their forbidden treasures. A Celestial will hide a couple of ten-cent pieces in a little ball of wax stolen from the stores, and stick it in the angle of the wall, or against the window-bar. Money is money, I need hardly say, even in jail, and a Sixth guard will smuggle in a box of matches, or a sausage (the favorite form of forbidden fruit) for a few cents. Shoes, belt, cap, coat—any article of dress, in fact—will be slit open, if a pellet of tobacco or opium can be got, notwithstanding the daily searching. I remember one long-sentence Chinese prisoner who got into trouble through his *cash* being discovered. He was sent to gaol, and even there he contrived to get a smoke. That was taken from him, and in desperation he asked that the Chinese Catholic priest might visit him. The priest did so, and the hardened beggar, instead of listening to the ministrations he had been supposed to yearn for, simply said "Can't you get me a chew?"

As regards the debtors I am not in a position to speak, as they are confined apart from the rest, but I saw enough of them to make me reflect on the folly of taking a man away from all chance of satisfying his creditors and then expecting him to do so after his employment and credit have gone. But one need not have been in Gaol to understand that.

In conclusion I would just say that, regarded fairly and without prejudice, there are no very glaring abuses existing in our local Newgate; the personal wants improving, no doubt, and the accommodation is admittedly satisfactory, but taken all round, the lot of the prisoner is not a happy one. It has been an unfortunate ill-advised as to write about the officers in an uncompromising way, as I was) compares favorably with that of any prisoners the world over, I believe. Those who had tried a lot of them told me so, anyhow. But it is a mighty fine place to stay out of, nevertheless.

THE SUICIDE OF A SOLDIER.

At the Magistracy this afternoon (28th inst.) Mr. Wile, Acting Coroner, held an inquiry into the circumstances attending the death of Private Wallace, who shot himself on Saturday morning last at the Victoria Barracks, Queen's Road.

Inspector Bremner was in charge of the case, and the following evidence was taken:—
Dr. R. H. Smythe, Army Medical Staff, said that he was called to Victoria Barracks last Saturday, and found the deceased there. He felt the back of his head, where there was a large hole, and saw that the mouth was cut about an inch. The cause of death was a bullet wound. The bullet had entered the mouth, passed through the palate, and thence through the head. Death must have been instantaneous. The wound was caused by a Martini-Heery bullet, which was found imbedded in the wall behind the body of the deceased. From the Medical History sheet, witness found several entries against his name for epilepsy, but he was never seen by any medical man. Upon examination of the brain were found old marks of meningitis.

Private Wood, A. & S. Highlanders, said he was walking along the verandah about 9.45 a.m. in Victoria Barracks on Saturday last. He heard a report, and running to a window whence the

sound had come saw a man sitting on the bed with a rifle against his breast, the butt being on the floor.

Private Herbert, A. & S. Highlanders, said that the deceased was subject to fits, but was of sober habits. On Saturday morning he seemed all right. He had fallen over the verandah once during a fit.

Sergeant Irvine, A. & S. Highlanders, said that he left the deceased cleaning his rifle. He afterwards heard the deceased had shot himself upon witness's bed. He drank a little, but a small quantity of liquor used to bring on the fits. Witness did not know if the deceased was in any trouble.

Colr. Sergt. T. Boyd, A. & S. Highlanders, said that the deceased had been five years and a-half in the Regiment, and was 22 years old. He was more subject to fits after drinking.

H. Worsley found that the cause of death was a self-inflicted bullet wound.

THE UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS AND THE GOVERNOR.

AN EXPLANATION.

We have been requested to publish the following correspondence:—

COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE,
Hongkong, 15th April, 1891.

GENTLEMEN,—I have the honour by direction of the Governor to acknowledge His Excellency's receipt of a letter dated 14th April, 1891, and written by you as representing the unofficial members of the Legislative Council now present in the Colony with reference to a recent motion in Council to the effect that the Colony is not now in a position to pay the increased salaries recently recommended by the unofficial members.

The signatures of this letter inform the Governor that it is their intention to memorialize the Secretary of State on the subject, and request that this intention may be notified to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies by telegram. His Excellency has directed me to state in reply that he hopes in the course of a few days to be able to make known the course which he proposes to take after giving this important subject his full consideration.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) W. M. DEANE,
Actg. Colonial Secretary.

The Hon. P. RYRIE.
" J. J. KESWICK.
" HO KAT.
" T. H. WHITEHEAD.

Hongkong, 27th April, 1891.

His Excellency the Governor.
SIR,—On the afternoon of Saturday the 25th inst., I was favored with a letter from the Acting Colonial Secretary enquiring whether his communication dated 15th inst. had been received by me. I desire to inform Your Excellency that the despatch in question never reached my hands. It appears to have been left at my office in my absence, and to have been mislaid.

Neither my colleagues nor myself were aware of the existence of that letter when ours of the 24th inst. was prepared and sent in.

I very much regret, and so do my colleagues, that such an accident should have happened, and that an impression should have been left on the public mind that Your Excellency had not even acknowledged the receipt of our first letter. This mistake will at once be corrected by the publication of this letter, but the Unofficial Members have still to express their regret that Your Excellency's reply to their letter of the 14th, as distinguished from its acknowledgment, was so long delayed.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your Excellency's most obedient and humble servant,
(Signed) P. RYRIE.

SUBSIDISED RELIGION IN HONGKONG.

The Trustees of St. John's Cathedral have forwarded us a copy of a petition which, we assume, has recently been forwarded to the Secretary of State, urging that the determination arrived at by the Home Government in 1871, that on the retirement of the then Colonial Chaplain (the Rev. Mr. Jennings) all ecclesiastical grants from Government, so far as the colony of Hongkong is concerned, should cease—be rescinded and that the present endowment should be continued. The reasons given by the petitioners speak for themselves; whether they are worth consideration or are absolutely worthless is a mere matter of opinion, but we hold that the principle of the vast majority of the taxpayers of this colony being called upon to pay for a system of religious worship which they do not agree, and which has for many years been maintained at the public expense for the benefit of an insignificant minority, is radically unsound and cannot be justified. The Scotch Church in Hongkong has been self-supporting since its first establishment years ago; if the English Church cannot support itself, the sooner its doors are closed the better for the cause of true religion. A pauper church in these advanced days is not an edifying sight, but that is exactly what the signatories of this petition desire to have perpetuated in this colony. It may not be—

TO HER MOST GRACIOUS MAJESTY THE QUEEN,
EMPEROR OF INDIA, ETC., ETC., ETC.
May it please your Majesty.

The Petition of the Undersigned Residents of Hongkong.

Sheweth
That whereas a former Secretary of State for the Colonies, in a despatch dated the 12th July, 1871, announced to the then Governor of the colony that the grants for ecclesiastical purposes in this Colony would be gradually discontinued as the offices of the present incumbents became vacant;

And whereas your Petitioners are firmly convinced that it would be "injurious to the welfare of the Colony that this step should be taken;

Your Petitioners humbly beg that the decision which has been arrived at may be reconsidered, and that the Church of England in this colony may continue in the enjoyment of the endowment which has hitherto been provided by the State, for the following reasons:—

1. Because the same reasons which existed for rescinding the decision to withdraw the Government Grant for ecclesiastical purposes in the Straits Settlements—a Crown Colony like Hongkong—obtain now in this Colony.

2. Because there are certain officers of the immediate necessity, such as religious attendance upon the destitute sick, marriages, burials (always pressing in this climate), the management of charities and distribution of charitable funds, for the performance of which no one could be held responsible except a clergyman supported out of the public funds.

3. Because the Gaol and Hospital always contain inmates to whose religious wants, in the absence of a clergyman deputed to visit them, there would in many cases be no one to administer.

4. Because the Chinese, who contribute at least nine-tenths of the revenue of the Colony, have no objection to the continuance of grants for ecclesiastical purposes.

5. Because the Chinese, though not availing themselves in large numbers of the services

provided by such grants, have for their part been endowed out of public funds with a hospital exclusively devoted to themselves, have had a liberal education placed within their reach, and a merely nominal charge and enjoy many other concessions involving an outlay estimated to be not far short of \$1,300,000, while many temple sites are held by them free or at a merely nominal Crown rent.

6. Because the expenses in connection with the support of a clergyman, clerk, &c., not salaried by Government, would fall for the most part on the shoulders of officials and heads of firms numbering under a hundred, each of whom would thus be called upon to contribute a large annual sum in order to sustain the services of the Church of England in the Colony.

7. Because the Government would be a contributor to the support of many officials such a contribution would be out of the question, whilst it would prove a large additional tax upon non-officials, to whom constant appeals are being made on behalf of religion and charity.

8. Because in the probable event of the inability of the officials and wealthier non-officials to bear this expense, not only will these two classes be deprived of the benefits of the regular services of the Church of England, but a large portion of the community who frequent the Cathedral and are not in a position to pay seat rent will be turned adrift and be practically cut off from their wonted public religious exercises.

9. Because all sections of the Church of England, whether Broad, High, Low, &c., now worship together and tolerate the present form of service; if, however, the salary of a clergyman depended on the congregation, there are fears that the supporters of various sections would wish for a clergyman representing their peculiar views, and that schisms would thereby occur, rendering impossible the maintenance of the services of the Church of England.

10. Because the change contemplated will effect a small, if any saving in Government money, for public opinion will require the services of an official clergyman in the Gaol and Hospital, public propriety the presence of a responsible clergyman to undertake the burial of the dead, and public convenience due facilities for the performance of the rites of matrimony.

11. Because the only expenditure that would be retrenched by the abolition of grants for ecclesiastical purposes would be a salary nominally of £600, but really of £600, paid to the Colonial Chaplain and representing little more than remuneration for the necessary services of burying the dead, attendance at the gaol, at hospitals, &c.

12. Because if this salary be withdrawn, the Colony will have to pay nearly, if not quite, as much in allowances for these services, thus substituting a precarious and unsatisfactory arrangement for one which works to the satisfaction of all concerned.

13. Because the determination to abolish all grants for ecclesiastical purposes on the death or retirement of the present incumbents is not carried out by any public demand. On the contrary, the almost unanimous opinion of the whole Colony, embracing as it does many nationalities and creeds, which is evidenced by the signatures to this Petition, is wholly adverse to the course proposed.

14. Because the aforesaid policy should not, regardless of the circumstances of the case, be needlessly imposed upon an unwilling community which, administering its own revenue, is particularly interested in guarding against its misappropriation.

And your Majesty's obedient and dutiful servants will ever pray, &c.

SPECIAL LICENSING SESSIONS.

THE RECHABITES IN ARMS.

A special session of Justices was held at the Magistracy on the 28th inst., for the purpose of considering an application from C. H. W. Wallis, a German, for a licence to sell intoxicating liquors as an adjunct to his business as restaurateur at No. 15 Wellington Street. Mr. A. G. Wise presided, and there were also present Messrs. R. C. Wilcox, G. Sharp, G. Horspool, and T. Shelton Hooper.

The Chairman said that the applicant gave as references Mr. Kemp, the Secretary of the German Club, Mr. Niehardt, and Mr. Schmidt. He asked Mr. Sharp anything to say?

Mr. Sharp:—I would only make reference to Mr. Horspool.

Mr. Horspool:—I have already reported that the man has an excellent character.

The Chairman:—But as to the desirability of a restaurant of such a nature in this situation?

Mr. Horspool:—The police report is that it is not necessary, and I still say that.

The Magistrate Clerk said that Mr. Caldwell was to have appeared for the applicant, though he had not appeared yet.

The Chairman could take no notice of that, as he was not present. Was there anything further, for or against?

Mr. Sharp had to present to his Worship and his fellow Justices three petitions in this matter.

Mr. Parkes at this point attended on behalf of the applicant. He had nothing to say.

Mr. Sharp:—The Acting Captain Superintendent has just remarked that the only objection to the granting of a licence is that a house of public entertainment of this nature is not needed in this position. The three petitions which I have to present against the granting of this application are supported and vouched for by the Rev. H. G. Bondfield, of Union Church, and the Rev. D. Hamilton, Naval Chaplain.

One emanates from the Church of England Temperance Society, the second from the National Temperance League, and the third from the Independent Order of Good Templars.

They are very much alike, the one who the other is supposed to accrue from the granting of the licence is that the merchant seamen and men of the Royal Navy might obtain additional refreshment. The burden of the three petitions is in each case that abundant provision is already made by the canteens and public houses now existing, and that no further accommodation of the kind is at all required.

These gentlemen, who do not set eyes to type in all matters connected with religion, have collectively united to prevent the granting of additional facilities—or might I say additional temptations—for the consumption of intoxicating liquors by our men, the men of Her Majesty's Navy and Army. There are very wide divergencies of opinion in this matter, but I think all men of any education and refinement are unanimously of opinion that the consumption of intoxicating liquors should be limited. That is the opinion which these men, coming down at they do from the high vantage ground of total abstinence, desire to carry out—simple limitation. This application is for an adjunct licence. From the evidence (which is open to anyone who will take the trouble to look into it) an adjunct licence very often becomes a dominant licence, for the profits from the sale of intoxicating liquors are so much larger than that from food that the latter is absorbed; I understand that in the case of one adjunct licence granted not long ago was boasted that they can get refreshment cheaper there than anywhere else in the town—at a merely nominal rate, provided that they drink. Anyone who lives at the west end of the town and has frequent occasion to pass along Queen's Road will know that scenes of a very undesirable character occur at these drinking houses. I trust that my fellow Justices and your Worship may be disposed to

feel some encouragement at the recent decision in the unanimous judgment of the House of Lords in the case Queen v. Wakefield. It seems to be just what Justices have been waiting for a great many years. It seems to be established on this appeal—that a case was appealed against again and again, from one tribunal to another, until at last in the House of Lords they have unanimously given the opinion that the public has no vested interest in his licence; so that in the case of an application for renewal, and especially in applications for new licences, gentlemen would have done much better to have come themselves before the Justices—it is allowed, I believe, (The Chairman: Yes,)—and I think you would have been most influenced by hearing Mr. Bondfield and Mr. Hamilton by me. But I trust the petitions will not suffer anything from the weak medium through which they are presented.

The Chairman then asked for remarks from the other Justices.

Mr. Wilcox thought it generally undesirable that licences should be granted in that neighbourhood, but the Justices had established a precedent (The Chairman: Not at all)—in granting a licence to a house in Pottinger Street. He was very sorry he was not present when that was done.

Mr. Hooper was rather in favour of granting the application. If that were an accurate proposition, that the fact of having one house would form a precedent for others, and that otherwise there would be none, if that were carried out from the beginning we should have none in the colony. As for these petitions, they did not carry much weight with him. One as from a body which were in for total abstinence, and another which were in for total abstinence; and another was from a religious body, though this was not a religious question. If the local householders had expressed any opinion, that would carry weight.

Mr. Parkes pointed out that the man bore a good character and was backed by well-known people.

After a short consultation in private the Chairman stated that the Justices had decided to refuse the application on the grounds that it was undesirable to have a licensed house in the neighbourhood, and the situation chosen was unsuitable.

ASSAULT AT ARMS AT THE CITY HALL.

Last night (27th inst.) the members of the Lorne Athletic Club, organized in connection with the A. & S. Highlanders, gave a very entertaining Assault-at-Arms in the Theatre Royal, City Hall. Before a fairly large audience. The long and varied programme opened with dumb-bell exercises followed by a series of difficult evolutions on the parallel bars by Mr. Sergeant Brown, Sergeant Thomas, Corporal McLaughlin, Privates McLachlan, Stewart, Fiddes, Alexander, and McLane. As this, as in the succeeding gymnastic feats, the performers exhibited dexterity and smartness that did both them and their instructor infinite credit. A turn with the gloves between two sturdy little drummers named Grantham and J. L. Sullivan was the next item, and the rounds were as warm as the weather, though in the end Mr. J. L. was not so successful as his Boston namesake. The next event, a rather tame bout at quarter-staff between Sgt. Dyer and Lee. Corp. Inglis, resulted in favor of the former. Sword exercise by a squad of well set-up fellows came next, and was very well received, the men moving with the precision of a machine. Lieut. Grant met a worthy adversary with foil and dagger in Corp. McLaughlin, but won on the points. A rather one-sided though decidedly hard-fought bout between Privates Stewart and Hanley left the latter an easy victor, and showed him to be probably one of the best heavy-weights of whom the Colony can boast. A dozen budding soldiers next gave a neat exhibition of physical drill, and were well paid with loud plaudits. An exhibition on the vaulting horse brought the first part of the programme to a close.

On the commencement of the second part of the entertainment a number of very creditable feats on the horizontal bar were performed by six of the men, concluding with a striking tableau, in which all six, with two clever clowns, arranged themselves in a pyramid on and about the bar. A singlestick combat which followed was evenly contested by Col. Sgt. Brown and Sgt. Dyer, but was interrupted by what the programme facetiously terms a "melee"—half a dozen men rushing in upon the combatants, giving them, Whitechapel, and hustling them off the stage. Several pretty tricks with suspended rings were shown by four of the men, who raised themselves into most difficult positions and seemed quite at home on the rings. A squad of men under Sgt. Major Williamson then went through the new bayonet drill, which seems to consist almost entirely of thrusts and lunges, without much attempt at defence, at any rate in that part of it shown on the stage. A light-weight boxing match between Stewart (another of 'em) and McLaughlin was very briskly contested. Both were active and in good condition, but McLaughlin was not strong in the defence, and Stewart welled him in every round. Fiddes and Stewart (the heavy-weight boxer) showed the spectators a very pretty display of the new bayonet drill, which is a very different thing from the old bayonet drill, and there was much wild lunging that would be very fatal in active service. The next item, a horripole by the second Sullivan, was very pretty, his time and stepping being faultless. After a "mounted combat" between two fierce knights on fiery untamed steeds of the drapery persuasion, the evening closed with a realistic representation of life on active service, in which all six, with two clever clowns, arranged themselves in a pyramid on and about the bar. A singlestick combat which followed was evenly contested by Col. Sgt. Brown and Sgt. 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LOCAL AND GENERAL.

A NATIVE contemporary in notifying the opening of the ten season at Tamsui, remarks that the prospects of the trade are not very promising this year.

We observe that Mr. José Augusto do Roxo has been officially recognised as vice-consul for Mexico at this port. Mexico has got a lot to be thankful for.

We note that Mr. Charles, British Consul at Chinkiang, goes home on a year's leave at the end of the present month. He will be relieved by Mr. A. Allen, from Amoy.

There is reported to be much sickness in Bangkok just now. Two Europeans have succumbed to cholera, and the *Gazette* says the Chinamen are dying off like flies.

The *Huipho* reports that an epidemic has made its appearance in Wuhu, to which many of the official class have succumbed, while deaths have been numerous among the lower classes.

The match for the Lawn Tennis Championship between W. H. Wallace and G. S. Coxon, which was to have taken place this afternoon (27th inst.), has been postponed owing to the former gentleman's indisposition.

The *Shan-hao* says that the Emperor will shortly review the Shen-chi camp and also the Peking naval forces, when the Krupp guns, quick-firing Gatlings, torpedoes, and electric search-lights will all be exhibited.

"Brownie's" statement that Mr. C. J. Holliday's *Sancho* "The Contrabandista" was a particularly good caricature of Governor des Vieux is a weak and contemptible falsehood. It was the best caricature of "Brownie" himself we have ever seen.

A YUNNAN correspondent writes to *L'Avanture du Tonkin* that a revolt has occurred in the province of Yü Men Yem, and two civil mandarins killed. The Viceroy has sent 2,000 men to quell the outbreak. He adds that there has not been a drop of rain all winter, and the opium crop has been completely lost.

THE bodies of the nineteen men who were executed at Kowloon City ten days ago are buried on the spot, in three or four rough graves. Near by a sort of frail brazier, made of bamboo, has been erected, and hanging therefrom, in a ghastly row, is a string of rude wooden cages, each containing a putrefying head.

We note that M^{rs}. Crofton and Hamilton are managing the "Ida Pol Rosa" Operatic Concert Company, now performing in Singapore. As these gentlemen engineered the Brown Potter combination, we presume that the projected visit of the American actress and Mr. Kyrie Hellew to the Far East has either been delayed or abandoned.

THE editors of several native newspapers in Dai Nippon have taken umbrage at the name *Empress of Japan* being given to one of the Canadian Pacific Co.'s new steamers. They look upon it with a certain amount of suspicion that the Queen of Great Britain and Ireland and Empress of India aspires to become Empress of Japan!

A BRIEF telegram from Madrid is published in the Manila papers which implies that the \$100,000 paid by the Spanish Government for the "unstable" cruiser *Fitzinger* is to be devoted to the purchase of a torpedo-boat of the same name. Another good thing for the Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co., presumably—if they will take any more orders from that quarter.

THE Consular reports on the trade of Siam for 1890, says the *Bangkok Times*, show that there has been a marked improvement in the amounts of imports and exports, as compared with those of 1889. The export of the total export trade of 1890 over that of 1889 amounts to \$5,542,032, while the excess of the total import of 1890 compared with those of the preceding year, show an increase of \$6,186,579.

THE mortal remains of Capt. J. P. Hoyland, of the Steamboat Co.'s service, were interred in the Protestant Cemetery, Happy Valley, on the 28th inst., in the presence of a large number of mourners, which included the Hon. P. R. R. and many old residents of the colony, friends of the deceased. The service was read by the Rev. A. G. Goldsmith, and singularly enough Capt. Hoyland was laid to rest alongside his old Macao friend, Professor Hart-Miller, sub-editor of this journal at the time of his death, nearly two years ago.

INTELLIGENCE from Shanai, according to a native paper, is to the effect that rich deposits of iron and coal have been found in the prefecture of Cheh-Chow. It is now proposed to open up mines in the five districts of Fung Tai, Koa Ping, Yang Shu, Ling Chuen, and Shing Shan, in the Cheh-Chow prefecture. The local capitalists have reported the find to the provincial authorities, begging them to petition the Throne to sanction the forming of a company for the purpose of working the mines. The mines are pronounced to be superior to those from the Kailash mines.

THE fourteenth ordinary general meeting of the North China Insurance Co., Limited, was held in Shanghai on April 20th. There was a large attendance of shareholders, and Mr. E. H. Lavers presided. On the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Mr. F. H. Bell, the Report and Accounts were presented and unanimously passed; and on the proposition of Mr. A. Anderson, seconded by Mr. Müller, Messrs. F. H. Bell, D. Brand, J. F. Seaman, H. R. Hearn, E. H. Lavers, W. D. Little, and A. G. Wood were elected directors for the ensuing year. Messrs. Augustus White and A. Burman were appointed auditors.

THE Tientsin correspondent of the *N. C. Daily News* writes under date the 16th inst.:—The European foremen, viewmen, overseers and others employed on the Railway and colliery works at Tongshan having demanded of the Directors the immediate arrest of the Cantonee who made the assault on Mr. Burns, and the demand not being complied with, they left the works in a body on Sunday the 24th and came to Tientsin, where they reported their selves to the British Consul and claimed his protection and assistance. The Consul informed the men on Monday that he had already seen the Viceroy, who had sent up preceptory orders to arrest the ringleaders and bring them down to Tientsin. He also informed them that the Engineer-in-chief would be in Tientsin the following day and advised them to be ready to return with him to the works on Wednesday. Mr. Kinder did not till the 16th that they received a telegram from the works stating that the five ringleaders had been arrested and sent down to Tientsin. The men, therefore, returned to the works by the first train on Friday the 17th. When they arrived they soon found that they had been deceived, for the Cantonee had not been arrested, but had been allowed to leave the place and was supposed to be on their way to Shanghai. Meaning the Colliery had been getting on quite well without the Europeans. What the upshot will be is uncertain, but strained relations between the men and the directors of the works cannot be avoided. The wounded man is doing fairly well.

THE deaths in Hongkong for the first quarter of the present year totalled 1,341, against 409 births. Amongst foreigners, singularly enough, the births and deaths ran a dead-heat—fifty each.

THE *Shanghai Mercury* learn that the local share-brokers are at last taking steps to form themselves into an association, by which some sort of understanding can be arrived at as to a uniform scale of commissions.

CHAM SING U and Wong Chung, who are charged with being concerned in the *Namoa* piracy, were again placed in dock at the Police Court on the 27th inst., and once more remanded (without any examination) the former for the seventh time and the latter for the fourth time. Justice seems pretty laden—note in their cases.

The members of the Hongkong Choral Society gave their third and final representation of "The Contrabandista" at the Theatre Royal, City Hall, on Saturday night last. There was only a moderate attendance, but the performance was fairly successful throughout, the dancing of the *cachucha*, as on previous occasions, proving the most successful item in the bill of fare.

IN consequence of the death of Capt. Hoyland, the popular skipper of the *Fathian*, the following changes have taken place in the commands of the Steamboat Company's vessels: Capt. Risby, of the *White Cloud*, takes command of the *Fathian*, Capt. Cruickshank, of the *Kiungchow*, is transferred to the *White Cloud*, and Mr. Webster, chief of the *Honani*, is promoted to the command of the *Kiungchow*.

THE Seoul correspondent of the *Shanghai Mercury* states that "another arch is shortly going to be made for Korea's Mineral Wealth," he understands that quite a party is going to set out next month in search of that doubtful quarry; this time the expedition is going to be purely a Korean one, and will no doubt meet with the same success as the dozen or so similar ones, which he had seen start on the same errand his during time.

THERE is a good deal of grumbling and growling in China town just now owing to the complete wet season, which has followed the dry one. There are feeling acutely. Hundreds of colliers there now been swimming around the well-dried dried up brooks on the hill side out Pokulum way, taking it in turns to fill their buckets, with the indispensable commodity as it were slowly through the soil. In this connection, a very important Government notification appears in our advertisement columns the other day.

A YOUNG Englishman named H. M. Pugh—a stranger to Yokohama—claimed to be the life of taking in of laundries at the Club Hotel, Yokohama, on the 13th inst. At an early hour the attention of the servants was attracted by sounds from the room in which Pugh was sleeping, and after access had been gained it was discovered he had taken a dose of laudanum, two bottles being found by his bedside. Dr. Wheeler was called in and restoratives given. Pugh was afterwards committed for trial by Assistant Judge Troup, at the British Consular Court.

We regret to learn that Mr. J. Cradock, Acting Chief Inspector of Police, is resigning his position on the ground of ill-health. Mr. Cradock has seen about as much active work as any member of the Force, and during his 24 years service he has been at least twice wounded whilst protecting the leges. We forgive Cradock for having on two occasions led us up like a lamb to the slaughter, to "The Retreat," and we are certain that, knowing what he certainly does know, he will remember us at confession in the happy days in the near future. "Ten better!"

A ST. GEORGE'S BALL was held at Shanghai on the night of the 23rd inst. The *N. C. Daily News* reports that 269 guests of Pommeroy and Greno were consumed, likewise a barrel of beef weighing 155 lbs. of which only the bones remained next morning, so that the guests must have had an enjoyable time. Why didn't our contemporary, after throwing all canons of good taste to the winds, also state how many whiskeys and sodas were drunk, and give a lot more delicate information in the same direction? Journalism must surely be in dire straits in Shanghai, when the assumed leading newspaper gets so low down as to count the bottles of champagne consumed at a public ball and to publish the figures in its report of the celebration.

The manager of the Pungion Company, Mr. Blamey, the only reliable man that has ever occupied that responsible position so far as we can make out, wires as follows:—"Gubun, a fine prospect; sample three ounces of gold have been shipped. Wait for my letter of to-day (April 25th). Mills are idle for want of water." The Secretary of the Pungion Company (Mr. A. O'D. Condon) explains that this telegram indicates that the trial crushing of Gubun reef stuff has been most satisfactory, and that a sample is being forwarded here to show the good quality of the gold. Visions of Freddie's never-to-be-forgotten pure-weight of the pure metal, extracted from Pungion ore—but there, what's the use of dragging out comic scenes from the played-out comedies of long ago! If any decent sort of gold has been found at this most visionary and disappointing of modern *El Dorado* so much the better for the unfortunate shareholders! If not—well, *makas*. 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at a heavy discount, is extremely insignificant as compared with the total paid-up capital of local joint stock companies, which are at a premium, and for the most part at a very high premium.

Taking up the list of local enterprises published in the daily journals, I find that the shares of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, with a paid-up capital of \$3,300,000, backed as it now is by a reserve fund of over a million sterling, are worth now in the aggregate about \$2,800,000. The shares of the two local Fire Insurance Companies, with an aggregate paid-up capital of \$800,000, are quoted in the one case at 500 and in the other at 500 per cent. premium. The shares of the local Marine Insurance Companies, with aggregate capital of \$1,350,000, are quoted at nearly 500 per cent., 150 per cent., and 100 per cent. premium, respectively. Carrying my eye down the list I find the Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Company shares (with a paid-up capital of 13 million dollars) are at 98 per cent. premium, while those of the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company, on which an aggregate of \$1,000,000 is paid-up, are now worth over \$1,500,000; the China and Manila Steam Navigation Company's shares, with paid-up capital of \$1,750,000, are at about 150 per cent.; and the \$1,600,000 paid-up capital of the Hongkong, Canton and Macao Steamboat Company is worth \$2,600,000. Similarly the shares of seven other companies (China Sugar Company, Hongkong Land Investment Company, Société des Charbonnages du Tonkin, Hongkong Hotel Company, Humphreys Estate and Finance Company, A. S. Watson & Co., Hongkong Ice Company) principally owned in Hongkong, on which was originally paid \$2,230,000, are now worth \$12,940,000, which, added to the figures representing the paid-up capital and present market value of the Hongkong Bank and the Marine Insurance Companies, give a total of \$22,010,000 paid in respect of shares which are now worth \$57,775,000. This, however, gives only a partial view of the situation. A more complete view is furnished by the following statements and figures supplied to me by the Registrar of Public Companies:—

"At the end of the year 1887 there were 26 public companies whose shares were dealt in the Hongkong market, having an aggregate paid-up capital of \$26,233,000 and the market value of which was \$46,870,125. In 1888 three of these companies went into liquidation and a fourth reduced its capital by \$175,000, and at the end of the same year the 23 remaining companies represented a paid-up capital of \$25,183,000 and a market value of \$48,355,375, or an increase in the market value of the 23 companies for the year 1888 of \$2,021,200. In the same year the shares of 13 additional companies were placed on the Hongkong market, representing a paid-up capital of \$1,709,640 and a market value at the end of 1888 of \$5,596,000, giving an increase for the year of 10 companies, \$2,634,640 in paid-up capital and \$7,081,000 in market value. Thus at the end of 1888, there were 36 companies with an aggregate paid-up capital of \$26,892,640, the market value of which was \$53,937,375. Two of the companies (with a total paid-up capital of \$200,000) are now being wound up, but the aggregate values of the shares of the remaining 34 amount at present to \$64,421,050 showing an increase (after deducting \$1,715,000 net increase to capital) of \$8,874,735 as compared with December, 1888. In addition to the above 34 companies there are 20 new companies registered since December, 1888, whose shares are dealt in in the Hongkong market. The total paid-up capital of these 20 companies is \$1,393,310 and the aggregate market value of this capital is \$2,779,550, showing a depreciation in the value of these new companies of \$12,810 as compared with the paid-up capital. A further analysis shows that of these 20 companies the aggregate market value of the shares of 9 of them is \$4,800,910 in excess of their total paid-up capital, while in 14 of the 20 there is a depreciation to the extent of \$1,622,750 below the paid-up capital. Of the 14 latter companies 7 are new companies engaged in purely local business, and the shares of which are depreciated below paid-up capital to the extent of \$568,000 only, and the remaining 7 companies, whose shares show a depreciation of \$1,054,750 below paid-up capital, are companies whose businesses or enterprises are situated entirely outside the colony. There are now therefore 54 public companies with a paid-up capital of \$44,074,950 and a market value of \$77,200,550, as against 26 companies in 1887, with a paid-up capital of \$26,233,000 and a market value of \$46,870,125, and 36 companies in 1888, with a paid-up capital of \$26,892,640 and a market value of \$53,937,375, showing an increase in the last 31 years of 28 companies, \$17,841,900 paid-up capital, and \$30,327,425 market value."

Compared therefore either with what may be called the figures of special success, or with the figures of all companies successful or unsuccessful, the figures of failure, or threatening failure, are puny indeed, and it is to be borne in mind that the present is a time when, owing to losses in speculation, all such securities are probably under their normal value. Now notwithstanding the fact that the most of these companies were in 1888 driven up by speculation, a price considerably higher than at present, I venture to think that from the point of view of the share market, there is nothing pointing to any serious or permanent decline of prosperity; indeed after a careful survey of the position at this critical period I believe that any competent and impartial judge would say with confidence that the business of the colony in so far as it is conducted by joint stock companies is generally in a very sound condition.

Happily there are indications pointing in the same direction from several other quarters. Though the absence of any reliable statistics is impossible to speak with certainty as regards Exports and Imports, it is satisfactory to find that the shipping statistics of last year point to an increasing rather than a decreasing trade. For according to the recent report of the Harbour Master, the tonnage of vessels entering and clearing from Hongkong reached in 1890 the enormous figure of 134 million tons—or considerably higher than those of any former year and exceeding by 1,000,000 tons those of 1889. It would thus appear that my anticipation of 1889 is showing itself to be correct, and that trade in other directions is compensating for the deficit caused by the decaying tea export, and the stoppage of emigration to Australia and the United States. And while on the subject of Emigration, I may mention that the accounts recently received of the condition of the Chinese in Mexico are so favourable, that if they should be confirmed I think it only right that the Government should encourage the emigration of Chinese to that country. I am informed, that Mexico will welcome all the free Chinese which can be sent there, I shall expect that in no long time the trade which will spring up with that rich country—rich in iron, in its soil and its minerals—will not only equal but surpass all that has been lost by the restrictive laws in the United States and Australia. But, however, this may be the correctness of the indication from tonnage that the volume of trade is increasing was signally confirmed only the other day, since before the expiration of this session, by the statistical report of the Chinese Customs for the last year (for a copy of which I am indebted to the kindness of Sir Robert Hart) and the local Commissioner. Though I have not had time as yet to examine carefully all the figures, it suffices for my purpose to take the figures showing the value of the

general trade between China and Hongkong which are Tael 127,358,507 for 1888, Tael 118,046,581 for 1889, and Tael 125,844,907 for 1890. Thus the value of our trade with China actually increased last year by more than Tael 7,000,000 as compared with 1888 and by over Tael 7,800,000 (or about \$1,750,000 sterling) as compared with 1889. As also indicating that the volume of trade is not decreasing I may mention that from a return furnished by the Registrar-General, it appears that in the first three months of this year 174 Chinese shops were closed and 235 opened, showing a favourable balance of 61, and though owing to my being unable to get the similar return for former years I do not count this balance as proof of increase, I think the figures at least suggest the probability that Chinese trade is not falling off.

Turning now to the matter of Bank deposits I see as little reason for alarm or despondency. Having requested information on the subject from the four British Banks in the colony, the answers obtained from three of them show that as regards them, there has been not a decrease, but an increase of deposits to the extent of over \$800,000. The only one of the four which returns a decrease, the amount of which is not stated, is the Bank under the management of the honourable member, who in replying to my letter as Manager reiterates his statement made as member of Council in respect of the decrease of "millions of dollars," but in this instance limits it to Chinese banks. Now on this matter of Chinese banks I have made enquiries from high authorities, banking and others, as well as from the Registrar-General. The estimates they received are considerably in amount, but I am most inclined to that of Mr. Wei Yuk, Comptroller of the Chartered Mercantile Bank, not only because it is the result of I understand, of careful enquiries at each of the Banks referred to but because it represents a mean between the extreme estimates on either side. According to his calculation the aggregate decrease of deposits in the Chinese banks as compared with 1889 is about \$1,000,000, the figures being \$6,000,000 for 1889 and \$5,000,000 for this year. Deducting from this decrease the \$800,000 increase in the British banks there is left \$200,000—so that there requires the large decrease of \$1,800,000 in some unaccountable quarter to make up the two millions which would be the minimum amount to justify the honourable member's indefinite statement as to "millions" of decrease.

I should mention that the Registrar General in forwarding his estimate of Chinese bank deposits accompanies it with the statement that despite all losses, money is at present plentiful among the Chinese, and that the rate of interest among them is now 12 cents per month per \$100—this being scarcely over 5 per cent. per annum and is even lower than the rate among Europeans. Now as regards land, which the honourable member says has fallen greatly in value, I do not doubt that as regards a considerable area of the less valuable land of the colony, there has been considerable depreciation by comparison with the inflated prices of 1889, but I question whether there has been any depreciation at all as regards what is of incomparably greater importance, viz: the large area of specially valuable land in Victoria. For though a seller of such land might not as readily obtain the same price as in 1889, I have reason to doubt whether, unless under exceptional circumstances, the price to a buyer would be any less now than then. On this point I will read what is said to me by a gentleman, whose position is one likely to render him specially well acquainted with the subject:—"The value of Marine and Inland Lots has not in my opinion declined since 1888. The intrinsic values of town and suburban lots have increased within the last two years to the extent of \$2,000,000 at the least by new buildings, and improvements. Even here no householder has been affected as house property in Victoria can be purchased now under ordinary circumstances, at a less price than in 1889. House property in the villages has increased in value particularly at Yau-mai, and the only apparent depreciation is in suburban property which is occupied solely from over-building. A great increase in rentals took place in 1888-89, owing to the great number of two-storied houses which were then pulled down for the purpose of building houses of three stories in their place. During the period of pulling down and rebuilding there was a dearth of houses for accommodation and many families left the colony, not being able to pay the higher rates demanded. I find that Chinese tradesmen formerly paying at the rate of 35 were compelled to pay \$50 a month for rent or leave and lose their business. Then came the over-building, upwards of 700 new houses being built to meet a demand for about 150 houses. The reduction of rents followed of course, but I do not find that rents in Victoria have decreased except in cases where they had been previously raised to an almost prohibitive extent and there is no general appearance of reduction in capital values."

Now though this gentleman may possibly be somewhat over-optimistic in his view, I myself have reason to believe that by no means far from the truth, and I know them to be correct as to the increased value of land in the villages. In any case they make clear that some of the causes of depreciation are entirely consistent with the absence of any general decline of prosperity.

To sum up the situation. While it must be admitted (1) that a large sum of money has been lost to the Colony in outside enterprises (2) that owing to the great building operations of recent years, the supply of houses is now considerably in excess of demand, and (3) that the value of land has consequently fallen below what was not indistinctly indicated as the inflated value of 1889; yet on the other hand there are: (1) in the prosperous condition of all our leading enterprises and industries, (2) in the increased quantity of shipping at a time of unusual depression all over the world, (3) in the increase of the regular trade of the Colony as evidenced by the Imperial Customs returns—and considering all things (4) even in the small decrease of deposits in the Chinese banks and the Bank deposit accounts—there is, in all these things indications of distinctly favourable promise for the future, and such, I venture to think, as give strong grounds for the belief that any depression that exists is merely temporary, and as on many former occasions in the history of Hongkong is only the precursor of still further increase of prosperity at no distant time. It may be judged, therefore, from what I have said that I am not at all share the gloomy anticipations of the honourable member. You no doubt have frequently observed that the organisers of Chinese processions, in order to make a more imposing show of followers, will engage coolies whose labour-solled rage are barely hidden by coats thrown over them repleated in gold and colour. Now it seems to me that the honourable member has reversed this process, and has succeeded for the moment, but only I trust for the moment, in throwing a squall of gloom over the brilliant uniform in which Hongkong usually appears to the outside world, and which I shall still venture to believe is rightly belonging to her.

Before coming to the financial position of the colony, which the honourable member regards as so unsatisfactory, I think it right, however invidious may be the duty, of touching on subjects which are to be respected, which the honourable member's statements, if left without criticism, would do a serious injury to the credit

of the colony if, as is probable, it should shortly become necessary to raise a loan for Public Works.

After giving various reasons why the revenue was likely to dwindle, and why presumably if confined to its present sources, it would be insufficient to meet existing charges on it, he proceeds to say that the taxes are already very high, and that though rates at 13 per cent. on the rental appear moderate, they are in reality heavy, inasmuch as rents are here about three times as high as in England; in fact he gives the impression to the outside world that the taxation of the Colony is already exceedingly burdensome and that the Government relations with the people of Hongkong are analogous to those of a landlord with rack-rented tenants. I venture to think that in this matter he has given a very wrong impression; and in fact, speaking from experience which is by no means a narrow one, I can state the confident belief that, with probably the single exception of the people of the Straits Settlements, if that be an exception, the people of Hongkong are less taxed, and probably far less taxed, than any other equally or more important community in the whole world having a pretension to civilised Government. There are indeed within my experience very few cases where an urban population has not to pay other heavy direct or indirect taxes, besides all the rates and taxes in an equal or greater degree which are paid by the people of Hongkong. To take the case of the Mother Country with which the honourable member has instituted a comparison in the matter of rents. There are few, if any, important commercial or manufacturing towns in England where the rates are less than 6½ in the £ or 33 per cent. on the rateable value, and this independently, where it has not been commuted, of some 9 in the £, the inhabited house tax on the actual rental; and I was informed only the other day by a proprietor of houses in the city of Norwich that the rates there were 18½ in the £ (90 per cent.) on the rateable value, or some 80 per cent. on the actual rental. I do not forget that the honourable member alleges as to rents here being about three times as high as in England, but there is in other parts of his speech I am disposed to think that he has unwittingly used the language of hyperbole. No doubt there may be found places in England where houses are cheaper by 10s than here, but on the other hand I know well that there are other places where they are not only not cheaper but considerably dearer than here, and judging from what I have learned from a gentleman specially experienced in this matter, I apprehend that the case would certainly not be understood as being in favour of equal rates in England for houses of equal size and in equally favourable situations as regards similarly important centres of business. The mere rates of Hongkong independently of the inhabited house tax are therefore certainly not above, and probably below, the average rates of commercial towns in England, and considerably less than half those mentioned in the case of Norwich; and in this view it is scarcely necessary to point out that the rate-payer of Hongkong is in an incomparably more advantageous position than the English rate-payer. For the latter has to pay in addition to his local rates not only all other taxes that he has here in an equal or greater degree, but he has also to pay income tax, property tax, (in addition to the inhabited house tax before mentioned) servants' tax, succession duties, sometimes (like rent charge, besides heavy duties on his wine, spirits, tobacco and tea, from all of which the Hongkong rate-payer is entirely exempt. Indeed if he were fully understood here how heavy are the burdens on people in England in similar positions with those of the people of Hongkong, I am unable to conceive that there would be the same display of opposition to the increased Military Contribution. For however unpleasant it may be to be asked to pay for what has hitherto been obtained free or for a comparatively small payment, I do not think there would be a grudge at a contribution, which is after all but a small proportion of the cost of defence, if it were understood that our fellow-countrymen at home are far more heavily taxed than we are, and it were borne in mind that they are alone paying the debt which enabled Great Britain to keep the peace and to maintain the world to maintain the independence of foreign nations, and bear, moreover, not only the whole cost of their own defence but in a very large proportion the cost of Colonial defence also.

And now as regards the financial position. When I read the honourable member's speech I at first intended to supply in detail the results of an exhaustive examination of this subject; but this is now impossible consistently with the performance of work absolutely necessary to be done in the short time before my departure, and I am regretting that I cannot do so. I much regret that by the consideration of the reasons above given a general discussion on the financial position is only to an extremely limited extent pertinent to this subject of salaries, and that it had for other reasons been better postponed until the consideration of the Estimates for 1891. I am able, however, to say enough to render it clear that our financial position, though not wholly satisfactory, is not one which gives any more reason for alarm and despondency than the general condition of the Colony. I observe here a question in the mouth of the Honourable Mr. Whitehead, to the supposed necessity of the Harbour Board, chiefly on account of the fact that in former years the funds raised for Light Dues had been more than sufficient for the maintenance of the Lights, and because on the completion of the Gap Rock Lighthouse this would probably occur again; and it is evident that the President of the Chamber of Commerce (from the point of view of what I may call the local authorities) would like the cost of lights to be paid by the Harbour Board, and not by the rates. But as regards the surplus revenue from lights, it seems to be forgotten that besides Lighthouses there are other costly services, such as the Harbour Master's establishment, Harbour launches, Harbour police, and the Observatory, involving an aggregate expenditure of some \$80,000 per annum, which are maintained for the benefit of the shipping, and which are principally maintained out of the ordinary taxation of the Colony. If the above view is correct, the whole of the liability of shipping being driven away by the small tax that would be necessary for the purpose, I think it to be well worth consideration whether it should not be imposed to the relief of other forms of taxation. If, on a principle which I understand is in force at Shanghai, vessels should be exempted from payment more than once in three months, I apprehend that the new tax would fall lightly or not at all on the amount of the ordinary taxation of the Colony, for the larger benefit to the Colony, and would be a small tax that would be necessary for the purpose, I think it to be well worth consideration whether it should not be imposed to the relief of other forms of taxation. If, on a principle which I understand is in force at Shanghai, vessels should be exempted from payment more than once in three months, I apprehend that the new tax would fall lightly or not at all on the amount of the ordinary taxation of the Colony, for the larger benefit to the Colony, and would be a small tax that would be necessary for the purpose, I think it to be well worth consideration whether it should not be imposed to the relief of other forms of taxation. If, on a principle which I understand is in force at Shanghai, vessels should be exempted from payment more than once in three months, I apprehend that the new tax would fall lightly or not at all on the amount of the ordinary taxation of the Colony, for the larger benefit to the Colony, and would be a small tax that would be necessary for the purpose, I think it to be well worth consideration whether it should not be imposed to the relief of other forms of taxation.

And now having touched on all the points of this question which appear to demand attention, I commend these remarks to the careful consideration of the Council and the community, with the sincere expression of my pleasure that I am able on the eve of my departure from the Colony to take, as I venture to think, on very sufficient grounds, so favourable a view of its condition and prospects.

OUR WATER SUPPLY.

Mr. F. A. Cooper, Water Authority, informed a representative of the Telegraph this afternoon (29th inst.) that the water in the Tyam reservoir is not being diminished by the new system of supply adopted since yesterday—i.e., one hour's supply in all the principal districts throughout the city. It may therefore be taken for granted that no further reduction in the supply to the city will be necessary, and that we can hold out for an almost indefinite period as we are now going on. He contradicted the rumour that the Government had chartered several steamers for the purpose of supplying condensed water to a portion of the colony—such a step being unnecessary so long as the daily supply from Tyam does not diminish the reserve appreciably.

FOOCHOW.

April 25th.

After all, the amount of treasure sent up country for the new tea leaf has already reached the handsome sum of \$1,600,000. It can safely say that there is only half of the usual number of buyers in the hills this season, therefore prices must undoubtedly be lower than those of last year.

As it is now necessary that all intending opium growers obtain a license from the Government, besides taxes on the land and the opium, many planters have given up the idea of planting poppy, as they fear, and justly too, that more trouble than profit will be the result of their labours in the new enterprise.

Reputedly owing to the bad state of the weather during the last few days, the price of rice has gone up some ten cents a picul. The authorities should look into the matter, and devise some rules and regulations for the sale of this great article of food of the whole Empire. Many of these attempts to raise the price of this necessary article of food are the work of the retail dealers alone.

The fire that broke out last Saturday night over the "long bridge" was not, as was supposed, of small significance; some two hundred houses and shops were destroyed.

On Wednesday about noon the second of the usual series of fires broke out at a cool-shop up above the bridge, on the Nantai side of the river. Luckily, however, it happened in the daytime and was therefore more promptly tackled than at night. The first fire-engine on the scene was brought over the bridge from the district magistrate's yard, another arrived from a foreign hong, and both did good work. About one hundred houses bounding the river, the salt godown, and the fire walls at Messrs. Hok Lee & Co.'s and Ningpo Chai & Co.'s were burnt. The "josses" were taken out of the "joss-house" with great alacrity, but unfortunately, in the crowded labyrinth of houses, destroyed, four women and three men lost their lives. The Prefect, Magistrate, and their hook and ladder companies, did good service in arresting the spread of the fire, and also in keeping the crowd of ruffians that usually assemble at fires, in order.

Respecting the latter fire an eyewitness writes:—"I noticed one fact which may possibly have been overlooked or not properly recognised by others. Messrs. Jandine, Matheson & Co.'s fire engine arrived on the scene very promptly after the commencement of the fire, and although the approach to the scene was densely crowded with Chinese, this engine, in a very short space of time, was safely piloted to an advantageous position for rendering help in extinguishing the fire. This was due to the energy of Mr. Brand. He was protecting the interests of the Hongkong Fire Insurance and certainly deserves sincere thanks from that Company. A salary European forcing his way through the crowd of ruffians and out-thrusts, which is always present at a fire in Foochow, is not in an enviable position, nor is the risk to his life small."—ECHO.

FORMOSA.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

KEELUNG, April 24th. Ordered by H.E. the Governor, three different kinds of powder, brown prismatic, black prismatic and pebble powder, were tried on the 1st and 2nd of the 6-inch guns on the High Fort, by the military instructor, Lieut. Hecht. He has no instruments here to measure the muzzle velocity, and could only make the trial by firing at targets a measured distance off, and charges made in proper weights, according to Armstrong range-tables. The result was very satisfactory as regards the black prismatic and the pebble powder; the brown prismatic appeared to be less powerful in its effects, as the shells fell short of the target by the right elevation of the gun; in future the charges of this kind of powder will be increased. I was courteously invited to be present at this trial, and have great pleasure in stating that the whole battery, including the men and guns, was in a perfect state, and the men were well drilled. Everything looked clean and in good order. The last new industry here is gold-washing. When the railway towards this end was built, some gold dust was found amongst the sand near the so-called Kelung River, which here runs swiftly round the hills and over stony strata. Now an old gold washer from California, has the thing in hand; I saw quite a number of men working in the bed of the river when last I passed it, and the first gold has actually been exported. The former river runs daily through, from Kelung Wharf to Tawitua, but the stony strata for passenger traffic is on this side the tunnel, about 30 minutes walk from the wharf. One weak place on the embankment has yet to be strengthened properly before the passenger carriages are allowed to run down to the wharf. To the south of Tawitua a new station was just to have been opened when a very heavy rain caused a landslide about 4 miles south of Peak, where there is a very deep cut. As soon as this is repaired the line will be opened a good distance to the south. From Kelung to Tawitua cargo has been shipped already.

The land to the south of Tawitua is beautifully cultivated and rich in produce. When I passed it last week I saw large fields of indigo, sugar cane, besides the large rice fields. Towards a town called Tokolan, by the river which runs past Tawitua, I saw the best cultivated tea gardens that I ever came across in my life; tea upon miles of square, flat fields of tea, with borders of brushwood for shelter, all kept perfectly clean by being ploughed between the rows, and sowed and weeded round the plants. It is a plateau some 2,300 feet above the level of the sea and through it the river makes its way, shooting down over rapids and through magnificent scenery towards Tawitua, which makes it quite interesting to go down in a rapid boat.

Last Sunday (26th) we were privileged to hear that the locomotive driver, had struck and the trains were running in the forenoon. It seems that the Chinese management is divided into two parts; one for the working of the railway and one for repairing and maintaining locomotives and rolling-stock. A locomotive had just been in for overhaul and the Director for this branch wanted to try it, the other manager gave orders that he would only run a short distance and on no account pass the first station, but instead of that he got a carriage attached and went on this single track line for a small pleasure excursion. This was last Saturday the 24th inst., and in the meantime the second train came back from

Kelung in charge of Mr. W. Johnson; he was last through one of the cuttings west of Sulingka (midway between Kelung and Tawitua), and could justly see some distance ahead when to his horror he saw a locomotive with a carriage coming right against him at a good speed. All ended well, as it was in such a place that they could see one another a good distance off, but when he came home a complaint was made to Mr. Brown, the European locomotive superintendent. As it appears that the Chinese Director for repairs would take no order from the railway manager, all the locomotive drivers struck and refused to run on the line until this matter was settled. The European manager, Mr. Matheson, then had an interview with the Governor, and although H.E. is sick at present, such is the strength of his will that everything was settled the same day, and such rules were given as thoroughly to stop such an occurrence in future. Yesterday Lieut. Hecht tried all the guns on the new battery on Palm Island. Everything went off satisfactorily, and without mishap.—Mercury.

Commercial.

LATEST QUOTATIONS.

Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, ex New Issue, 106 per cent. premium, sellers.
Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, cum New Issue, 228½ per cent. premium, sellers.
Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, New Issue, 170½ per cent. premium, sellers.
Union Insurance Society of Canton—\$95 per share, buyers.
China Traders' Insurance Company—\$65 per share, buyers.
North China Insurance—Tls. 275 per share, buyers.
Canton Insurance Company, Limited—\$115 per share, sellers.
Yongtong Insurance Association—Tls. 70 per share, nominal.
Tin Tai Insurance Company, Limited—Tls. 150 per share.
Hongkong Fire Insurance Company—\$315 per share, sellers.
China Fire Insurance Company—\$281 per share, sellers.
Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Company—\$100 per cent. premium, buyers.
Hongkong, Canton, and Macao Steamboat Co.—\$334 per share, sellers.
China and Manila Steam Ship Company—120 per share, sellers.
Hongkong Cold Storage Company—\$131 per share, sellers.
Hongkong Hotel Co.—\$120 per share, buyers.
Hongkong Hotel Co.'s Six per cent. Debentures—\$50.
Indo-China Steam Navigation Company, Limited—30 per cent. discount, sellers.
Donghai Steamship Company—\$48 per share, sellers.
China Sugar Refining Company, Limited—\$199 per share, sellers.
Luzon Sugar Refining Company, Limited—\$92 per share, sellers.
Hongkong Ice Company—\$90 per share, buyers.
Hongkong and China Bakery Company, Limited—\$75 per share, sellers.
A. S. Watson & Co., Limited—\$21 per share, buyers.
Chinese Imperial Loan of 1884 B—24 per cent. premium, sellers.
Chinese Imperial Loan of 1884 C—5 per cent. premium, buyers.
Chinese Imperial Loan of 1886 E—14 per cent. premium.
Hongkong Rope Manufacturing Company, Limited—\$122 per share, ex div., sales and buyers.
The Hongkong Steam Laundry Co., Limited—\$25 per share, nominal.
Panama and Sanguine Dux Samantan Mining Co.—\$2 per share, sellers.
The Raub Gold Mining Co., Limited—80 cents per share, buyers.
Imperial Mining Co., Limited—\$12 per share, buyers.
The Balmoral Gold Mining Co., Limited—\$7 per share, sellers.
Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company—\$70 per share, buyers.
Toongta Coal Mining Co.—\$430 per share, buyers.
The Hongkong High-Level Tramway Co., Limited—\$65 per share, buyers.
The East Asiatic Company, Limited—\$10 per share, sellers.
H. G. Brown & Co., Limited—\$48 per share, ex div., buyers.
The Sincere Coal Planting Co., Limited—\$131 per share, nominal.
Crickleback & Co., Limited—\$35 per share, nominal.
The Steam Launch Co., Limited—nominal.
The Anson Arms, Hotel and Building Company, Limited—\$13 per share, sellers.
The China-Borneo Co., Limited—\$16 per share, sellers.
The Hongkong Brick and Cement Co., Limited—\$14 per share, sellers.
The Green Island Cement Co.—\$7 per share, sellers.
The Hongkong Electric Light Co., Limited—\$6 per share, buyers.
Geol. Fowler & Co., Limited—\$75 per share, sellers.
The West Point Buildings Co., Limited—\$30 per share, sellers.
The Peak Hotel and Trading Co., Limited—\$1 per share, sellers.
The Table Building Co., Limited—\$35 per share, sellers.
The Lami Planting Co., Limited—\$7 per share, buyers.
The Teles Mining and Trading Co., Limited—\$2 per share, buyers.
The Selama Tin Mining Co., Limited—\$1 per share, sellers.
The Shum Hin Hotel Co., Limited—nominal.
The Kowloon Land Investment Co., Limited—\$15 per share, buyers.
The Bank of China & Japan & the Straits Ltd.—2½ per share, sellers.
The Bank of China & Japan & the Straits Ltd.—2½ per share, sellers.
The Hongkong Marine, Limited—nominal.
London and Pacific Petroleum Co., Limited—\$15 per share, sellers.
The National Bank of China, Ltd.—27½ per cent. discount, sellers.
The National Bank of China, Ltd. Founders' Shares—\$200 per share, sellers.
EXCHANGE.
On London—Bank, 11 T. T. 3/4
Bank Bills, on demand 4/11
Bank Bills, at 4 months sight 4/12
Cash at 4 months sight 4/12
On Paris—Bank, 11 T. T. 3/4
Bank Bills, on demand 4/11
Bank Bills, at 4 months sight 4/12
Cash at 4 months sight 4/12
On Shanghai—Bank, 11 T. T. 3/4
Bank Bills, on demand 4/11
Bank Bills, at 4 months sight 4/12
Cash at 4 months sight 4/12
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